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1997 SPECIAL

HONG KONG— ON THE MOVE

PAST & PRESENT

LANDMARKS • EMERALD ISLANDS

204/205

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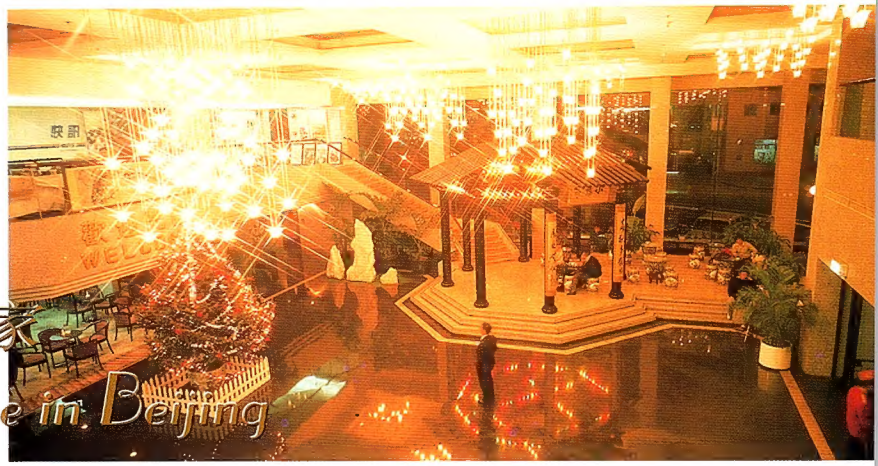
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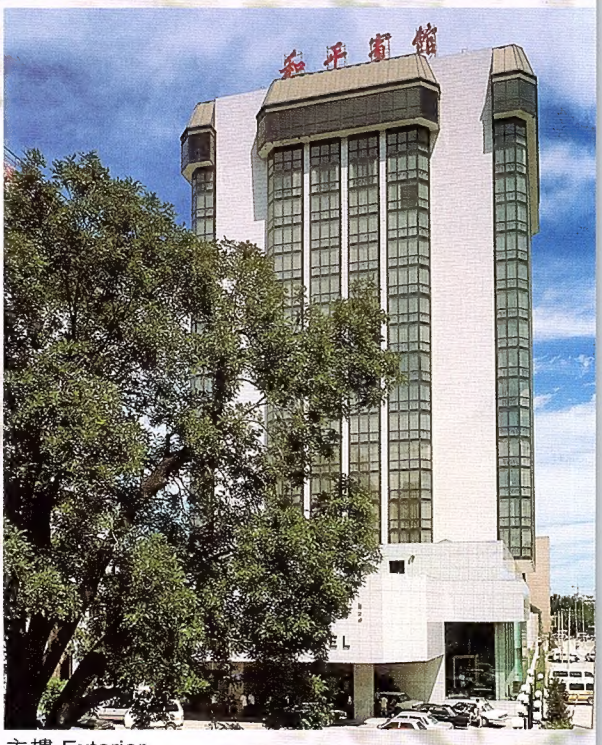
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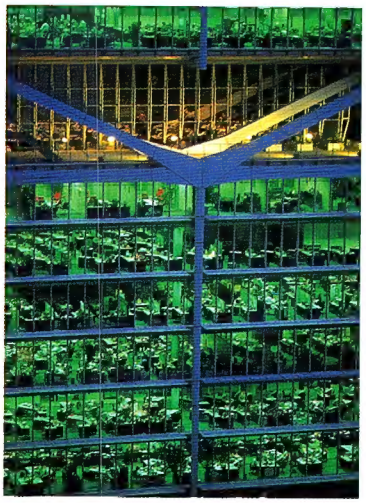


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There are no famous mountains nor great rivers and few important historical sites in Hong Kong, yet it attracts over 10 million tourists from all parts of the world every year. What makes Hong Kong such a hot tourist spot? Where does its timeless attraction come from?

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Central reflects Hong Kong's fast pace and rapid development. The buildings seem to compete for architectural supremacy. Yet in the neighbouring Western District, you can still find the "Old Hong Kong".

Heart of Kowloon — Tsim Sha Tsui, Yau Ma Tei and Mong Kok 30

Photos by Chan Yat Nin, Shi Baoxiu and Huang Yanhong
Article by Yee Ket Choi

The three areas in Kowloon are a mecca for tourists. In Tsim Sha Tsui, there is everything one could ever need – luxury hotels, large shopping centres and restaurants. Yau Ma Tei, with the oldest streets in Hong Kong, is filled with old-fashioned shops. In Mong Kok, one can see a typical Hong Kong neighbourhood.

Ocean Park — Endless Surprises 40

Photos & Article by Huang Yanhong

The largest oceanarium and fun park in Southeast Asia. At the Middle Kingdom, located within the park, you can travel back in time through China's 13 dynasties.

The Outlying Islands and Beaches — Hong Kong's Peaceful Gardens 48

Photos & Article by Huang Yanhong

Most of Hong Kong's outlying islands are sparsely populated. They are like quiet, peaceful gardens hidden behind the busy, noisy metropolis of Hong Kong.

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From Tsing Ma Bridge to the Gold Coast 64

Photos & Article by Shi Baoxiu
The suspension bridge linking the three islands of Tsing Yi, Ma Wan and Lantau has become a new landmark in Hong Kong. It is already a favourite for both locals and visitors.



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THE SHINING PEARL

The day of July 1, 1997 is approaching and we, together with many of our readers, will soon witness one of the greatest events in the 20th Century — Hong Kong's return to China.

The Chinese like to say *"yijin huanxiang"*, meaning "returning to one's native place with grand honour and a large fortune". This is the case of Hong Kong who, like a man, left home young and comes back as a grownup.

There was the heavy page in history when, following the Opium War of 1840, Hong Kong Island was occupied by Britain, then the southern tip of Kowloon Peninsula was included, and then, the much larger New Territories was rented for 99 years. A century later, on December 19, 1984, Hong Kong's fate was decided again when the Chinese and British governments signed the Joint Declaration, announcing that China would resume the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong as of July 1, 1997.

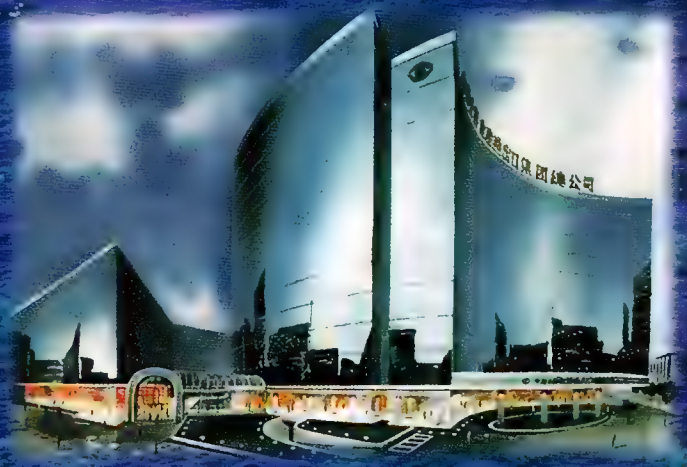
Hong Kong has developed from a small fishing village into one of the world's most important financial and trade centres. The most favoured tourist destination in Asia, the city has much to offer today: there is the magnificent harbour view, the tranquil, peaceful outlying islands, a rich night life, and a tax-free market with goods from all over the world. Above all, what attracts the traveller most is probably the international metropolis' characteristic atmosphere which, while full of Chinese tradition, is actually a blend of different cultures.

Located on the southern coast of China, Hong Kong is popularly referred to as the "Pearl of the Orient". While presenting our readers this issue, *1997 Special: Hong Kong — on the Move*, we also perceived the fact that it is the glimmering of the six million Hong Kong people that forms the lustre of the shining pearl. Now, happily and confidently, they will be working even harder to make the pearl glitter even more brightly.

Photo by Huang Yanhong

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HONG KONG — WONDERS



Known to the world as the Pearl of the Orient, Hong Kong is represented on the map as a tiny dot on China's long coast line, yet inhabited by some six million people, it is one of the world's most densely populated regions. Every year this port city acts like an amazing magnet drawing over 10 million visitors who spend a total of HK$60 billion.

A Metropolis of Vitality and Miracles

People say that Hong Kong's timeless attraction comes from its unlimited vitality.

Over the past few decades, Hong Kong's economy has advanced by leaps and bounds, bringing the region to the forefront of a developed society. Factors such as its unique historical and cultural background, a free economy, a versatile work style and, in particular, an extreme abundance of opportunities have enabled Hong Kong to perform many miracles and create an impressive image for itself unparalleled anywhere else in the world — like a pearl of splendid lustre, it is small but possesses immense potential. Despite the fact that Hong Kong has few of its own natural resources, it is one of the wealthiest regions in the world.



NEVER CEASE

Article by Chan Yat Nin

Hong Kong's prestigious, multi-faceted image can, perhaps, be best illustrated by the following:

— As an open, duty-free port Hong Kong is one of the best places in the world for investment. It is the world's third largest financial centre after London and New York. In proportion to its population, it has the largest number of world-class billionaires.

— Favourably located at the geographical centre of the Asia-Pacific Region, it is a bridge linking China with the rest of the world and the intermediary for exchanges between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits.



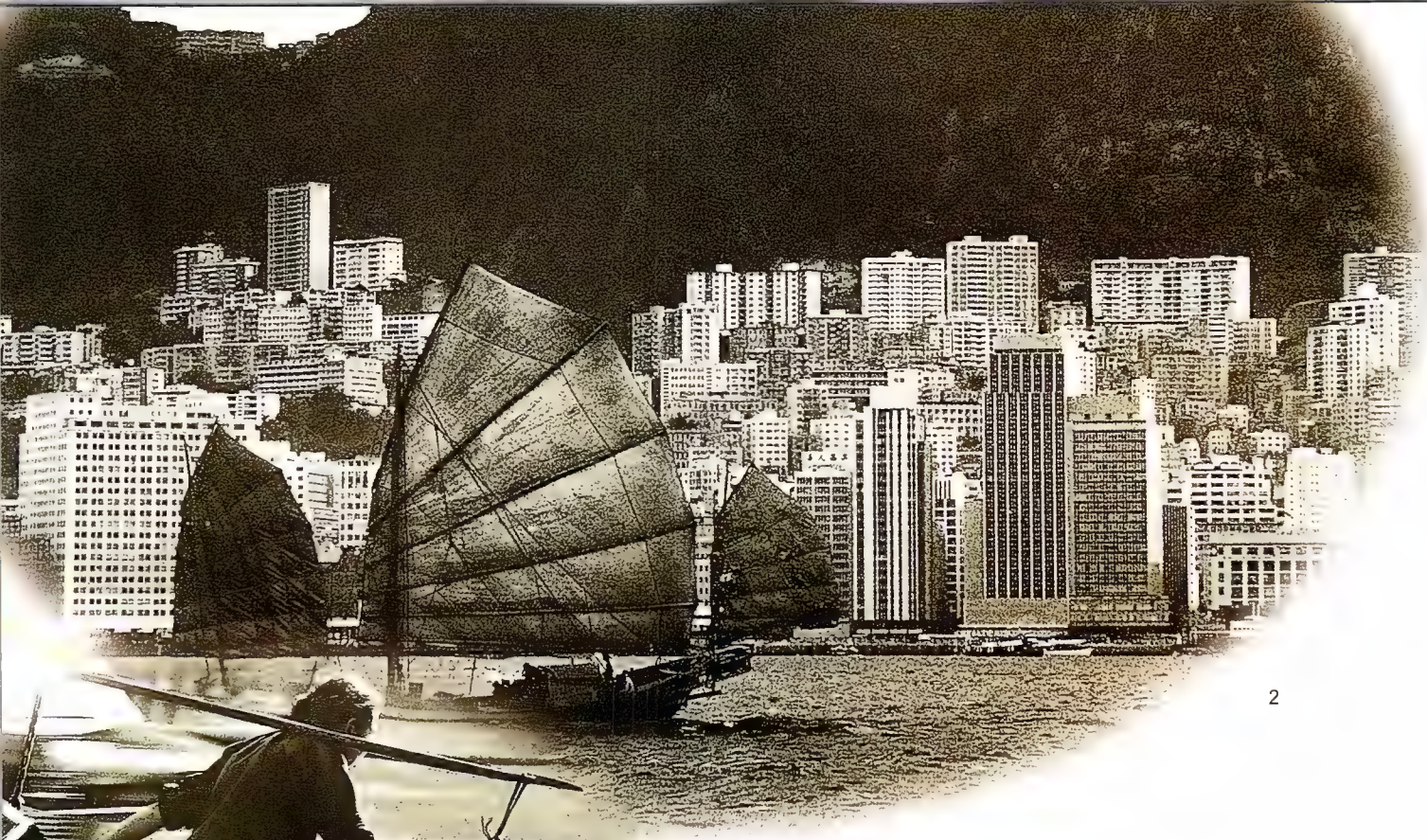
— Hong Kong has become a hub of international communication and transport. It's container port has the world's largest handling capacity, and its airport is the busiest and most efficient in the world.

— A secure and prosperous society, Hong Kong is one of the regions in the world where the unemployment figures and income-tax rates are the lowest.





1. Enchanting night scene of Hong Kong (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. The newly constructed Tsing Ma Bridge, the world's longest road and rail double-decker suspension bridge (by Chan Yat Nin)
3. The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Ltd. (by Chan Yat Nin)
4. Kai Tak Airport is just a stone's throw away from densely populated residential areas. (by Chan Yat Nin)
5. Kwai Chung Container Terminal (by Chan Yat Nin)



2



1

It has the highest ratio of public housing and the largest public housing projects in the world.

— Immense financial resources have enabled Hong Kong to undertake extensive development projects. Hong Kong has reclaimed more land from the sea than anywhere else in the world. Its new airport is the largest civil aviation project in the world, and the newly-built Tsing Ma Bridge leading to the airport is the world's largest, double-decker, highway and railway suspension bridge.

— Commercial transactions are extremely brisk. Hong Kong ranks first in the per capita volume of trade, it is also the largest exporter of designer clothes and the second largest garment exporter. It also often ranks first in the export volume and value of eight other products.

— With its busy subway, cross-harbour tunnels and elevated highways, Hong Kong's public transport system is the most efficient in the world.

— Hong Kong possesses a highly efficient postal and telecommunications network. It ranks third in the world in terms of the volume of mail delivered; first in terms of the average usage of cellular phones and pagers; second in the service and use of fax; and, it is the first city in the world to develop an all-round digital communication network.

— Hong Kong has the highest concentration of hotels, several of which constantly rank among the best in the world for their service.

— Hong Kong is known for its colourful night life and entertainment.

— Hong Kong is world-famous as an Epicurean paradise where one can enjoy cuisine from every part of the world. People in Hong Kong eat more seafood than anywhere else in the world and the region boasts to have the largest Chinese restaurants in the world — either indoor or floating.

As a result of the fast economic growth during the 1970s, Hong Kong has become the first of the Four Little Dragons of Asia. Particularly after China adopted the policy of reform and opening up, Hong Kong has become a bridge linking the mainland of China with the outside world. As China's economy develops rapidly, entrepot trade and an active financial market have brought new opportunities to Hong Kong, turning it into an area where economic activities and cultural exchange are the briskest in the world.

Unusual History, Blended Cultures

The history of the Hong Kong region has been recorded in the earliest Chinese documents: in the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), the region was under the jurisdiction of Panyu County, Nanhai Prefecture; during the Tang (618-907)



3

and Song (960-1279) dynasties, the region was a frontier of coastal defence at the mouth of the Pearl River, where merchant vessels were protected by a garrison stationed at a place called Tuen Mun, a name still used today. An Inspector's Office was set up in the area during the Yuan (1271-1368), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. By the Qing Dynasty, there were already settlements of considerable size.

Britain invaded China by launching the Opium War in June 1840 and seized Hong Kong by force in January 1841. On August 29, 1842 the British forced the Qing government to sign the Treaty of Nanking which ceded Hong Kong to the British. In October 1856, the Second Opium War broke out. Again, on October 24, 1960 Britain imposed the Treaty of Peking upon the Qing government and seized the southern tip of Kowloon Peninsula. Through the "agreement" reached on June 9, 1898 the Qing government was forced to lease the New Territories to Britain for 99 years until June 30, 1997. As a result, Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories came under British rule.

In the early 1980s the Chinese government decided to resume its exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong. On December 19, 1984 the Chinese and British governments signed the Joint Declaration on the Hong Kong Question, which stipulates that the question of Hong Kong should be solved with the concept of "one country, two systems". From that point on, Hong Kong entered a period of transition and the region has become the focus of world attention. This has not only elevated its name, but also promoted its tourist industry.



Hong Kong's exceptional history has moulded it into a cultural phenomena unique in the world. Its colourful life style is one that combines East with West, capitalism with Confucianism, as well as today and yesterday. It is this blend of cultures that constantly attract tourists to Hong Kong.

Visitors might be puzzled by the somewhat mysterious traditional customs of the East that exist side by side with the avant-garde life style of the West without signs of antagonism: at Easter they might pray to Jesus Christ and then turn to worship their ancestors on the Clear and Bright Day; Christmas is celebrated with elaborately decorated and beautifully lit buildings and is quickly followed by the celebrations of the Chinese New Year with more lanterns and decorations, and people greeting one another by saying, "Kung Hei Fat Choi" (wishing you happiness and prosperity!); the Taoist Bun Festival parade on Cheung Chau island and the Western Halloween parties at Lan Kwai Fong





attract an equal number of cheering crowds; after holding a Western-style wedding ceremony, the bride and bridegroom usually change into Chinese-style ceremonial clothes for their reception where a traditional 12-course Chinese banquet is served.

There are places to remind you of the past — traditional Chinese temples, old walled villages, family shrines, as well as the early colonial buildings; other parts show the quieter face of Hong Kong — its farms and country parks. Then, there are places that sum up the lively aspects. The night market at Temple Street in Yau Ma Tei, known as the Common People's Night Club, attracts both Chinese and Western bargain hunters. There, not only can one shop and dine cheaply, but also have one's fortune told or listen to episodes of cantonese

1. Rushing for water during a draught in history. (Yau Leung)
2. Back in the 1960s, junks like this could still be seen plying the Harbour. (by Yau Leung)
3. Despite British occupation of Hong Kong, the Kowloon Walled City remained beyond the jurisdiction of Britain and thus became a symbol of Chinese sovereignty. (by Huang Yanhong)
4. After June 30, 1997, Government House will become a symbol of Hong Kong's colonial past. (by Chan Yat Nin)
5. The freemasonry of the Chinese community, in the early days of British occupation, is best reflected by the charity institute it founded — Tung Wah Hospital. (by Shi Bao Xiu)
6. Walled Hakka village in Kat Hing Wai, Yuen Long. In 1898, the village put up armed resistance against British occupation after the Extension of Hong Kong Boundary Agreement was signed. (by Chen Xiuquan)







opera. In Lan Kwai Fong just up the hill from the business district of Central is an area congregated with bars and restaurants, where young professionals, both Chinese and Western, gather in the evening. A proliferation of night clubs and bars are found at East Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai where parties go through the night to dawn.

Hong Kong is also world-famous as a shoppers' paradise. In fact, many tourists put shopping high on their itinerary. Westerners come to buy things from the East, Easterners come to buy things from the West, or both. Hong Kong has goods from all parts of the world: designer clothes, jewels, porcelain, jade and stone carvings, toys, furniture, curios, leather products.... Furthermore, the tax-free policy (except for liquor and tobacco) makes shopping in Hong Kong both rewarding and interesting.

Colourful Activities

Hong Kong may be small as far as tourist destinations go, but it is packed with interesting things to see and to do.

From the Peak one has a magnificent view of Victoria Harbour and the modern sky-scrapers lining the waterfront. The view at night is even more breathtaking.

— The 800 metres long escalator linking the Central District with the Mid-level District is the longest of its kind in the world;

— The colourful street trams are the oldest in the world, and a top-deck seat provides a splendid vantage point for sightseeing and photography along the route.

Hong Kong's futuristic architecture is unrivalled, however, away from the skyscrapers, there are a number of enchanting beaches and bays waiting to be discovered, and a sail boat can whisk you away to the outlying islands. In the New Territories there are open stretches of land and hills where it is possible to find peace and quietude — they form the "backyards" of the bustling city.

Many events take place throughout the year in Hong Kong, creating a feeling of novelty and movement for both the residents and tourists. On July 1, 1997 a momentous event is to take place when Hong Kong returns to the motherland. Thousands of officials, overseas Chinese and tourists will flock to the city to witness this historic event and, on this day, it is expected that the attention of the world will be focused on Hong Kong.

The day will also mark the beginning of a new era in the development of the tourist industry in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong is expected to continue to be the hottest tourist destination in the Asia-Pacific region.







1-2. Fashion reflects the upheaval in the past three decades (by Chung Man Lurk, Chan Yat Nin)
3. Work hard and bet hard — a scene at a racecourse. (by Xie Guanghui)
4. The jade market in Yau Ma Tei (by Xie Guanghui)
5. Tourists enchanted by the energetic atmosphere of Hong Kong — more than 10 million visitors come to Hong Kong every year. (by Tai Chi Yin)
6. Many people "cash in" on the return of Hong Kong to China — stocking up on colonial postage stamps is one way.

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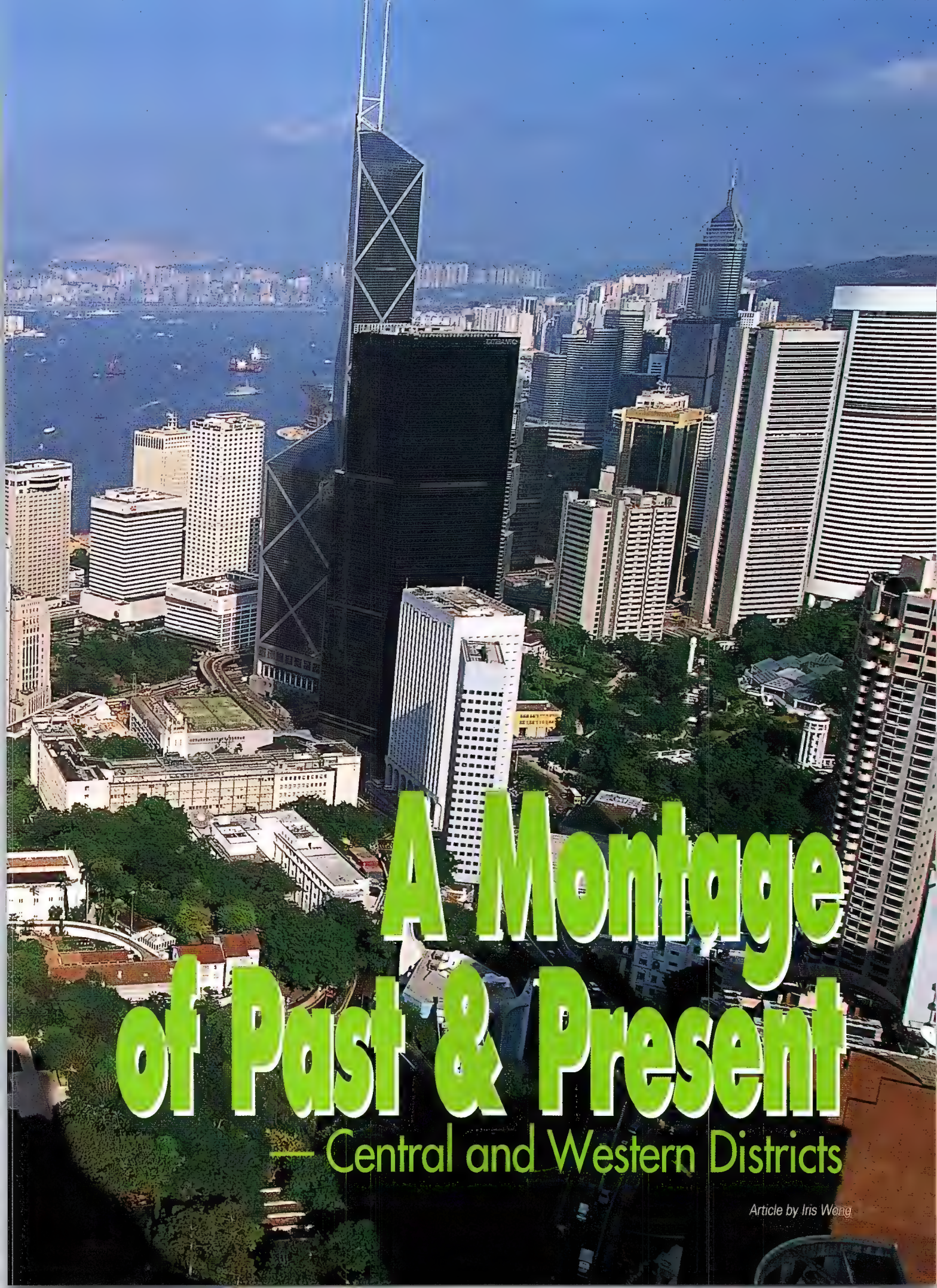
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Central, the political and economic centre of Hong Kong (by Chan Yat Nin)



A Montage of Past & Present

— Central and Western Districts

Article by Iris Wong





Called "Victoria City" in the past, today's Central is a hectic city centre whose pulse reflects the pace of Hong Kong's rapid development. The look of its skyline is already a sufficient hint at Hong Kong's vitality. Futuristic high-rise edifices of concrete and glass glitter in the sun, while the busy traffic flows on roads winding their way around numerous construction sites. Zoom down on to the pavement, and you can see the scenario of a typical working day in Central: people literally rub shoulders with each other in their rush to get wherever it is they are going — they always seem to have a place to hurry to. Perhaps it is this very sense of purpose that sets Hong Kong's economic machine in motion. Nevertheless, when Sundays or public holidays arrive, this fast-paced rhythm comes to a standstill. Sections of some main roads are cordoned off to traffic to allow pedestrians to enjoy a stroll, a picnic or simply a gathering with relatives and friends.

The influence of modern development radiates from Central and extends westwards to Sheung Wan and to Western District (Sai Wan). But some tradition still lingers. Behind the modern buildings that line the main streets, you can find traditional trades still going on in alleys and lanes. Scratch the modern facade of the city centres and you can find the "Old Hong Kong". The Central and Western districts are a melting pot of old and new, east and west.

All for One and One for All

The scene of Central's main streets is a genre painting of the life here. Every day waves of people from all walks of life flood the streets during the rush hours like a rising tide. Even during the off-peak hours, people always seem occupied with one thing or another, be they working or merely whiling away the time: well-heeled businessmen or executives seize spare seconds to talk business on their mobile phones, waiters dodge through the crowds to deliver food, shoeblacks polish the shoes of the passers-by, an old locksmith reads newspapers in his stall, waiting for customers.... Locals and expatriates, whatever their trade and wherever they come from, the people work together here extremely productively.

The Changing Faces of Central and Sheung Wan

Hong Kong's nimble response to change is what makes this city successful, and nothing reflects this sentiment more than the ever-changing outlook of Central and Sheung Wan. The huge land reclamation project in the two areas along the Victoria Harbour front is in such full swing that it makes many people worry that the harbour may possibly become a river in the near future. There is always construction work in progress on Connaught Road Central, Des Voeux Road and Queen's Road Central, and certainly the noise and dust generated are a definite annoyance, yet people easily forget this once they see the accomplished works — splendidly built skyscrapers that line the main roads and streets. In the past two decades, new buildings have been emerging like mushrooms after a spring rain. Connaught Building was the tallest building in Hong Kong about two decades ago but today it is not even counted as one of the tallest and its name has been changed to Jardine House. The most well known new towers are the modern headquarters of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Exchange Square and Bank of China Tower. Each having its own unique character, they seemingly compete for architectural supremacy. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Building is designed to make maximum use of sunlight; the splendour of Exchange Square holds passers-by spellbound; the 70-storey Bank of China Tower is the geometric masterpiece of world-renowned architect Mr. Ieoh Ming Pei.

Characteristic Alleys and Lanes

The alleys and lanes behind the facade of tall buildings form another world, secluded from the daily routines. All of them have an

1. Much of the land in Central and Sheung Wan is reclaimed from the sea.
2. Exchange Square houses one of Southeast Asia's most important financial market. (by Chan Yat Nin)
3. Office of the Legislative Council Secretariat
4. People from all walks of life rub shoulders with each other in the streets. (by Chan Yat Nin)
5. The Hong Kong Shanghai Bank Building







individual character, known either for their specialised goods or for entertainment venues: Stanley Street is lined with shops selling a wide selection of photographic equipment; Lyndhurst Terrace is thronged with antique shops and art galleries; and the best known of all, Lan Kwai Fong, is the stronghold of Yuppie culture, being frequented by Western and local young professionals after work. Here, discos, bars and chic restaurants form a paradise for party revellers.

Sacred and Secluded

Up Garden Road, away from Central District, the hustle and bustle of the city centre fades away, and one finds oneself among a number of churches and historical sites. These make up the more sacred, solemn and secluded aspects of Central District. The most representative of them are St. John's Cathedral and St. Joseph's Church on Garden Road, the Roman Catholic Cathedral on Caine Road and St. Paul's Church on Lower Albert Road. Their magnificent and elegant European architecture reminds us of Hong Kong's colonial past. The churches here have turned the area into the "precinct of churches". Sitting back quietly to witness the dramatic changes in the heart of Central is Government House. This classic colonial building has long been the official residence of the governors of Hong Kong and so it is the ultimate symbol of colonial power. Another historical landmark that reminds one of the significant part of Hong Kong's history is the Monument to the Martyrs who died in their defence of Hong Kong during World War II. It is located just outside the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens.

East vs. West

Standing in stark contrast to the "precinct of churches" are the well known Chinese temples. To the west, in Hollywood Road is the time-honoured Man Mo Temple which is frequented by both local pilgrims and tourists alike. Worshipped in the temple are two deities: Man Cheong, the civil god of literacy and Kwan Yu the martial god. The temple exhibits classical Chinese architectural style. Code books for fortune telling in Chinese and English are on sale. The other two representative Chinese temples in the area are Kwun Yum (The Goddess of Mercy) Temple and Guang Fu Temple.

Treasure Hunting Ground — the 'Old Hong Kong' Style

Adjoining Hollywood Road is Upper Lascar Row. Formerly the residential area of Indian soldiers and their families, the street today is lined with antique and curios shops and flea markets. "Relics" from time immemorial can sometimes be hunted down for less than HK$10. Even if you are not keen on buying, a stroll through the street is worthwhile to experience the "Old Hong Kong" atmosphere.

Western Market on Connaught Road is another ideal place for shopping in a nostalgic atmosphere. Built in 1858 as a produce market in Edwardian style, Western Market was renovated and then reopened in 1991 with its interior designed in the style of the 1930s and 40s. Here one can find shops selling everything from Chinese traditional handicrafts to vintage European watches. Many of the fabric shops in "Cloth Alley" were relocated here. You can also enjoy a cup of coffee at a traditional emporium-cum-cafe when you need to take a break from shopping.

1. Central, the heart of Hong Kong, at night
2. Squares and parks are the popular rendezvous of domestic workers from the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries on holidays. (by Huang Yanhong)
3. Halloween being celebrated in Lan Kwai Fong, the stronghold of Yuppie culture (by Chan Yat Nin)
4. A street market in Central
5. Nostalgic touch: old jazz music is played in the department store of Shanghai Tang. (by Chan Yat Nin)

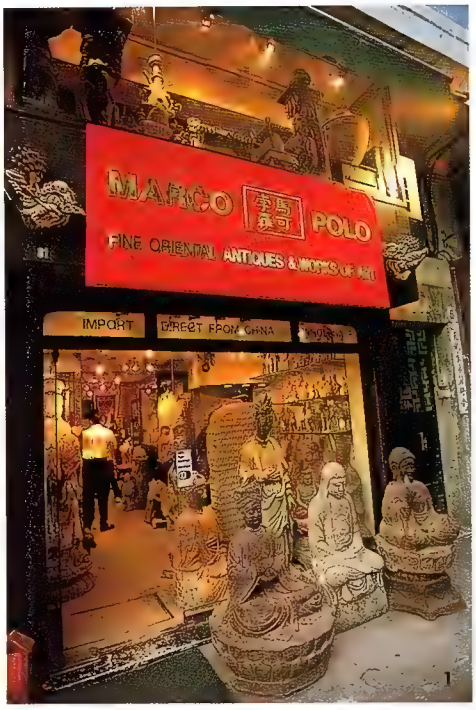


Herbal Shops in Western District

The continuation of the "Old Hong Kong" legacy from Central District can be found in Des Voeux Road West and Ko Shing Street lined with traditional Chinese medicine shops. The old-fashioned shops used to play an important role in the early days of Hong Kong's development. Another historical monument that echoes Hong Kong's past is the University of Hong Kong, which was built in classic Edwardian-style architecture. In general, the Western District still preserves its traditional look, only the hillside flyovers, the luxury residential areas (called Mid-Levels) and the Western District Harbour Tunnel bring you back to the present from your nostalgic reverie.

A One-Day Tour

A day tour might consist of the following: visiting landmark buildings, shopping arcades and the reclamation projects along the Victoria Harbour, churches and other European style buildings on Garden Road and Lower Albert Road and Caine Road, Man Mo Temple on Hollywood Road, antique markets on Upper Lascar Row, Western Market, Ko Shing Street, followed by an evening in Lan Kwai Fong.



1. An antique shop in Central
2. Rickshaw drivers waiting for business



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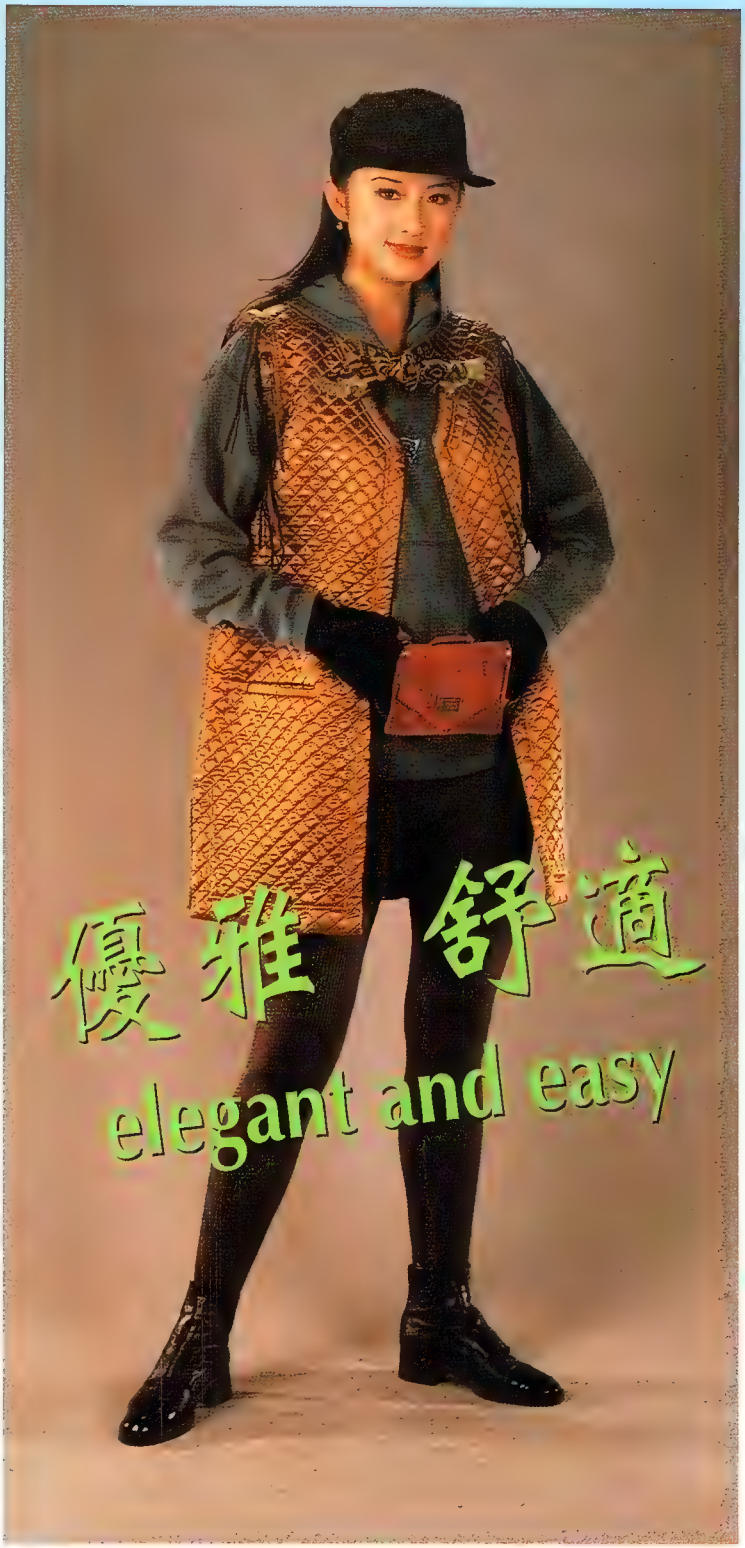
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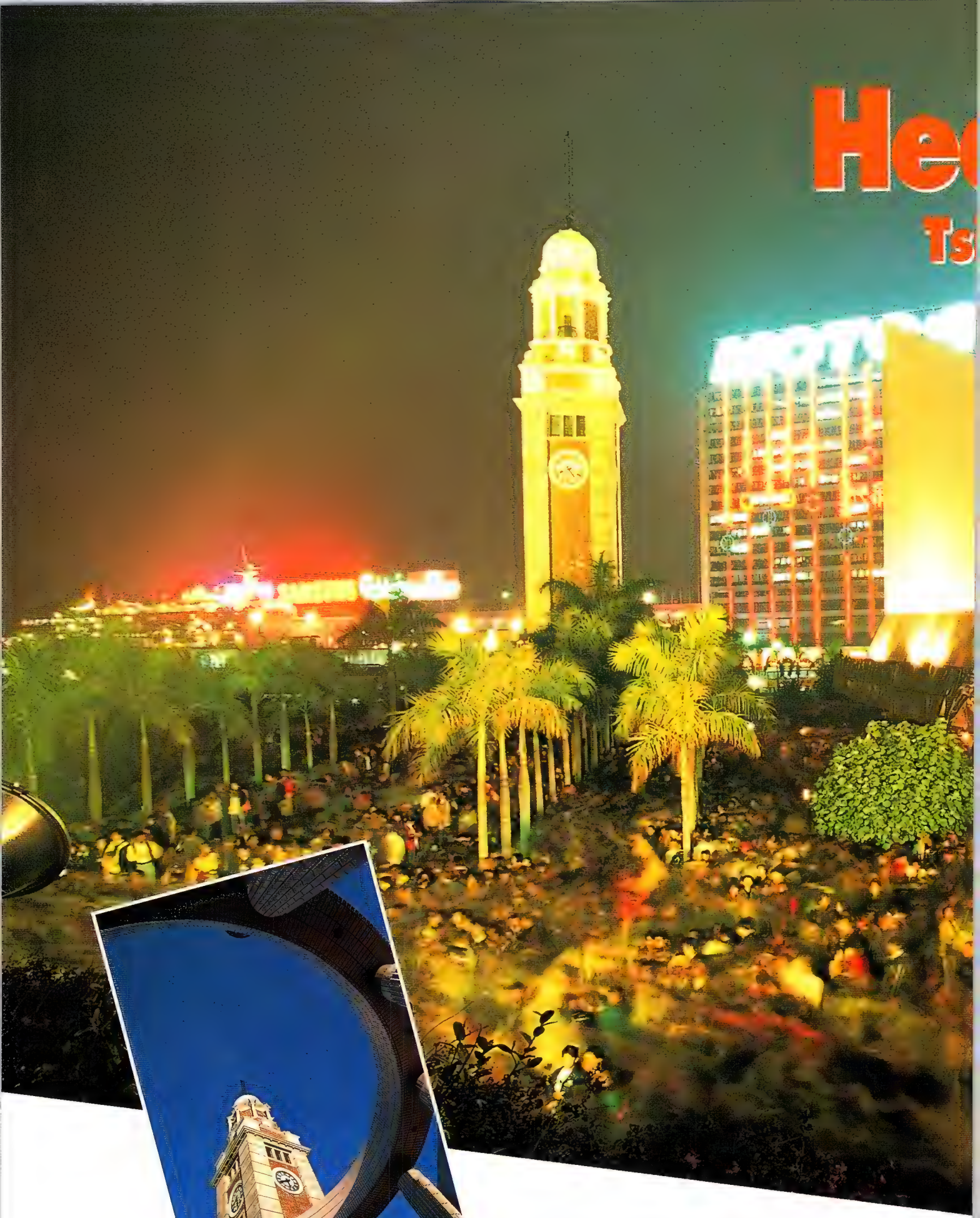
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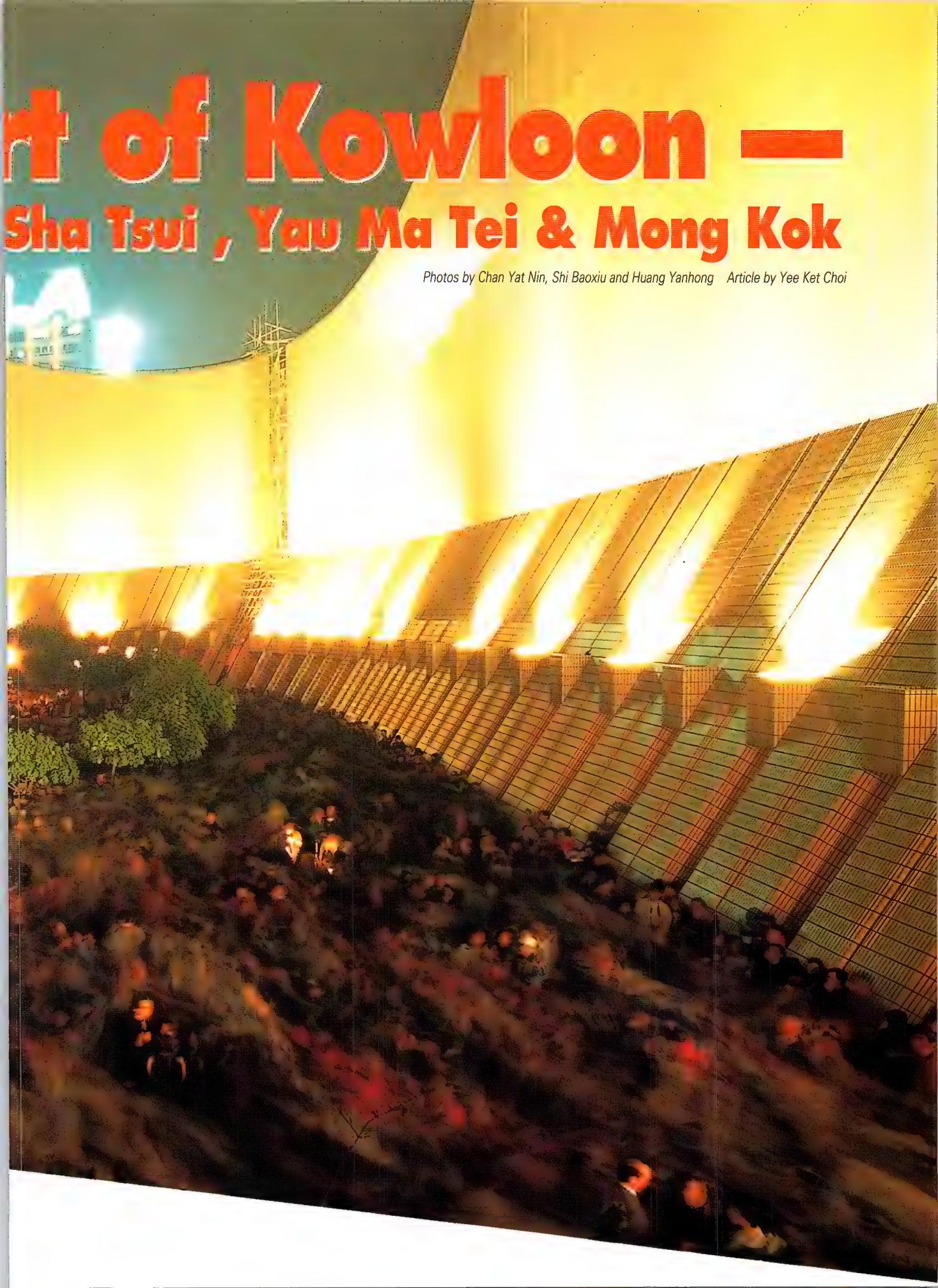
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Main picture: A festival evening outside the Hong Kong Cultural Centre (by Huang Yanhong)
Inset: The Clock Tower – landmark of Tsim Sha Tsui (by Huang Yanhong)



rt of Kowloon —

Sha Tsui , Yau Ma Tei & Mong Kok

Photos by Chan Yat Nin, Shi Baoxiu and Huang Yanhong Article by Yee Ket Choi







The areas around the Star Ferry terminal on Kowloon side offer the most spectacular views of Hong Kong Island, be it by day or night. A whole morning can easily slip by without realising it as one lingers at the waterfront, watching the busy harbour.

Tsim Sha Tsui is a mecca for tourists. Here, there is everything one could ever need – luxury hotels, large shopping centres, restaurants, recreational activities, as well as parks and pockets of greenery.

Even though Tsim Sha Tsui is characterised by a forest of skyscrapers, just like Hong Kong Island, the atmosphere here appears more relaxed and the pace much slower. Perhaps this is due to the throngs of tourists who gather near the pier, idly shop along Nathan Road or stroll around Tsim Sha Tsui East.

Star Ferry and Ocean Terminal

Stepping off the Star Ferry, one is greeted by five flag poles with flags flapping merrily in the wind. Many street hawkers have set up their barrows there, hoping to tempt passers-by with their souvenirs and bargain-priced clothes.

During the holidays the concourse is often occupied by various societies, either promoting their organisation, gathering signatures for petitions or holding photo exhibitions.

Also on the concourse are bookstalls, selling everything from local newspapers and periodicals to publications from around the world, such as *Le Monde*, *The Times*, the *Straits Times*, the *South Pacific Post* and the *People's Daily*, not to mention the hundreds of local and imported magazines.

Not far from the ferry pier is Harbour City, a complex of three interconnecting malls, consisting of Ocean Galleries, Ocean Centre and Ocean Terminal. The first two feature designer fashion boutiques, department stores and electronics shops. Ocean Terminal is known for its traditional Chinese products and handicrafts such as silk, satin, lacquerware and antiques. Built in 1966, the shopping mall (as well as an office and residential building) stretches almost the entire length of Canton Road. From the corridor of Ocean Terminal lying to the south of the building one can see the passenger liners moored along the shore.

The Lonely Clock Tower

Just beyond the ferry pier is the 30-metre-tall red and white Clock Tower that looks rather out of place among the other buildings. It used to be part of the Edwardian-style Hong Kong Railway Station where once upon a time one could board a train going all the way to Paris. The railway station has since been moved to Hung Hom. The tower is all that remains of the original structure but it continues to strike the hour just as it has for the past 80 years.

Near the Clock Tower is the ultra-modern Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Its concert halls, grand theatre and film theatres have a total seating capacity of 4,000. Its atrium lobby is often host to many free





1. Park Lane, located between Tsim Sha Tsui and Yau Ma Tei, is one of the most brilliantly lit streets in Hong Kong (by Shi Baoxiu)
2. Festooned car parade held at Chinese New Year in Tsim Sha Tsui (by Huang Yanhong)
3. Tin Hau Temple on Temple Street (by Xie Guanghui)
4. 'Hands', the sculpture on Park Lane, is the sign for "please" in Chinese (by Huang Yanhong)
5. The International Dragon Boat Race held in June every year in Tsim Sha Tsui East (by Chan Yat Nin)
6. A small park next of the Hong Kong Space Museum (by Shi Baoxiu)





exhibitions and live shows.

Just beside the Cultural Centre is the spherical edifice of the Hong Kong Space Museum, complete with a planetarium, Space Theatre and interactive exhibits. The museum's facilities are among the most advanced in the world. Regular screenings of films on outer space are shown in the Astronomy Hall with simultaneous translations in English, Japanese, Mandarin and Cantonese through individual headphones. To the accompaniment of music, the planets and stars of our solar system are projected overhead making the audience feel as though they are actually travelling through space.

Directly across Salisbury Road from the museum complex is the Peninsula Hotel. After 60 years it still ranks as one of the top ten hotels in the world. The sumptuous lobby is worth a look even if you are not staying at the hotel, and you could always relax with a cup of tea and admire the beautiful columns and the recently-renovated ornate ceiling.

Although Tsim Sha Tsui is full of expensive hotels, Chung King



Tsim Sha Tsui bathed in the morning sun (by Huang Yanhong)

Mansion on Nathan Road offers cheap basic accommodation. Despite the lack of room service and private baths, the rooms are popular among budget travellers.

Kowloon Park and Festival Lights

Walking further along Nathan Road, on the left is a magnificent mosque. This is Hong Kong's largest and best decorated mosque. Built in 1984, it covers an area of 1,500 square metres and cost HK$26 million to construct. The mosque's dome measures five metres in diameter and is embraced by four minarets.

To the right of the mosque is the 14-hectare Kowloon Park with lakes, gardens, playgrounds, and a huge indoor swimming pool. There are also many sculptures in the park.



Also there is the Hong Kong Museum of History containing exhibits that trace local history from Palaeolithic to modern times.

Situated on Chatham Road South is the purple and pink-coloured Hong Kong Science Museum. Inside, the exhibition hall is a wonderland for both children and adults, with hundreds of "hands-on" exhibits that range from huge bubble-blowing contraptions to computers.

Yau Ma Tei — A Nostalgic Place

Lying north of Tsim Sha Tsui is Yau Ma Tei, another area with a wonderful atmosphere, especially Shanghai Street and Reclamation Street. There are the oldest roads in Hong Kong. Along Pilkem Road are shops selling raw silk and traditional Chinese women's gowns


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(cheong sams). Across the busy Jordan Road are streets lined with fresh seafood restaurants, with glass tanks full of live fish, crabs and lobsters ready for the picking. In Woosung Street is a professional letter writer who operates from a simple wooden table on the pavement. He earns his money by writing letters for illiterate people, most of whom are elderly.

The streets around Yau Ma Tei are filled with old-fashioned shops such as traditional bakeries, Chinese restaurants, Mah-jong parlours, herbal tea shops, traditional Chinese pharmacies-cum-clinics, as well as shops selling miniature shrines and ritual utensils, incense, sundry goods, wedding gowns, Chinese embroideries, and the ever-present food markets. In Yung Shue Tau Park old men can be seen sitting at the roadside smoking hookahs while chatting or playing Chinese chess. The lifestyle of these locals has remained unchanged for several decades.



Fortune Tellers and Opera Shows

Around Yung Shue Tau Park, at one end of the market, fortune-tellers line the pavement. Quite a few can speak English, Portuguese and Japanese. Just opposite, Nepalese hawkers sell accessories, souvenirs and backpacks. Walking further along, one comes across street performances of Cantonese Opera given by local troupes. Though this form of entertainment is slowly fading out it still manages to draw a considerable number of local residents. It is also possible to find live performances in some of the cafes along Temple Street.

Inside Yung Shue Tau Park is the temple of Tin Hau (the goddess of the sea who protects seafarers). Sheltered from the sun by luxuriant banyan trees, the temple is frequented by foreign tourists as well as local residents.

On the corner of Kansu and Battery streets, under the highway bridge, is the famous Jade Market (open 10 a.m.-3 p.m.) with about 450 stalls selling precious stones which range from milky white to deep green.

The famous Temple Street night market stretches for more than two kilometres and is open between 6 p.m. and 12 p.m. On sale are factory outlet clothes and accessories, silk ties and leather goods, toys and cheap electronic items, jeans, T-shirts, knitwear, watches, Chinese tea-pots, CDs, second-hand books, etc.

Mong Kok, A Place for Ordinary People

Mongkok is recorded as being the most densely-populated urban district in the world, yet few people who visit the area actually know this. What usually attracts tourists to the area is the excitement of seeing, at first-hand, a typical Hong Kong neighbourhood and experiencing the so called "culture of everyday people". While in Mongkok, you may want to visit the Ladies' Market (also known as Tung Choi Street). There are hundreds of stalls here, selling everything from women's clothes to CDS.

At one time the locals also shopped here, but in more recent years the market caters more to tourists, and with prices to match! However, there are still a few good bargains to be found. The stallholders, eager to welcome their overseas customers, have taken the trouble to learn a few sentences in English, Japanese and Mandarin. They are not fluent but know just enough to be able to strike a bargain.

Adjacent to Grand Tower Hotel lies the Bird Garden, covering an

1. Neon lights on Nathan Road (by Xie Guanghui)
2. Dubbed the "Nightclub for the Common People", the night market in Temple Street has long been a tourist attraction. (by Chan Yat Nin)







area of 3,000 square metres on which 70 or so birds stores are found. This bird kingdom is exquisitely designed and constructed in traditional Chinese architecture. The 50 huge trees growing in the garden also serve to attract other birds making it natural haven for birds.

Markets specialising in fresh flowers and goldfish can also be found beside the Mongkok Stadium. Fa Hui (Flower) Market is said to be the largest of its kind in Hong Kong where flowers are flown in from all parts of the world. In the street directly opposite are stalls selling every kind of goldfish. The stallholders set up at the crack of dawn and the place is always thronged with goldfish enthusiasts.

There are neither museums nor historical sites in Mong Kok, but by walking through its streets and markets one sees the real lifestyle of everyday people.

1. Young women having their fortunes told (By Xie Guanghui)
2. Next to Ladies' Market, Fa Yuen Street is just as busy. (By Shi Baoxiu)
3. Prospective customers at a jade market (by Xie Guanghui)

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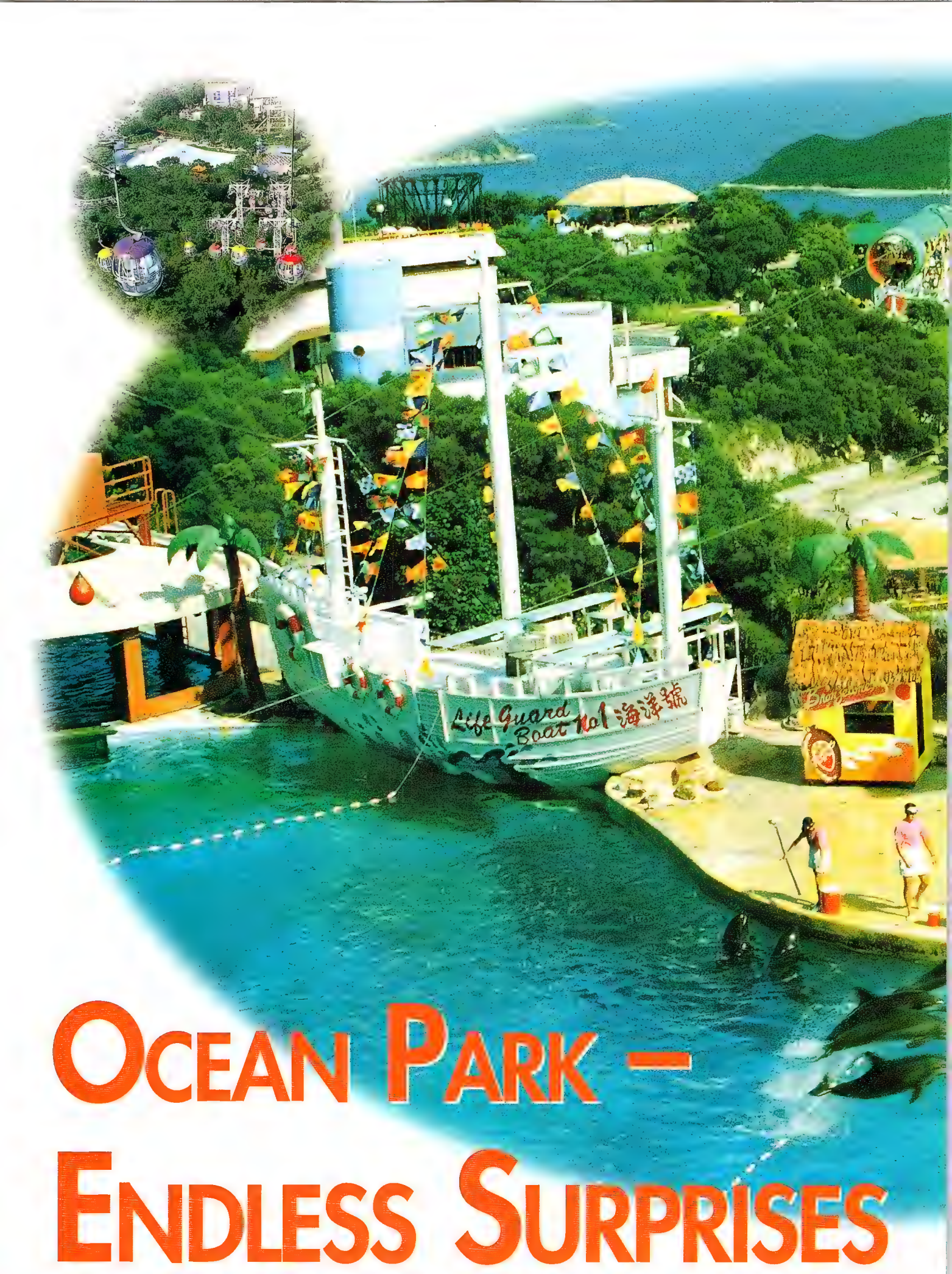
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OCEAN PARK – ENDLESS SURPRISES

Photos & Article by Huang Yanhong


First Aid
Station





On the southside of the Hong Kong Island is Southeast Asia's largest entertainment and leisure centre, the Ocean Park. Almost everyone who has visited it agrees it was worth it. One of Hong Kong's main tourist attractions, it welcomes thousands of visitors each day.

Hair-Raising Adventure

The path leading into the Ocean Park is lined with loveable animated animals: a dolphin, with its head raised, asks for a donation and to be protected; a goat is the subject of many visitors' photographs and an owl perches on an environmentally protected tree reciting the importance of environmental protection. These animals themselves have become part of the park's attractions.

Near the terminus of the aerial cable car is the Film-Fantasia Simulator ride. Jump into the rocking seats for *Adventure to Dinosaur Island*, you will come face-to-face with a host of dinosaurs on a 15-metre-high screen. The images are so real that you will be thrilled with excitement as you zoom past a volcanic crater, pick your way through virgin forest, plunge into deep gullies and escape by a hairsbreadth from the bloody mouth of a dinosaur.



Atoll Reef

Built two years ago at a cost of more than HK$60 million, the Ocean Museum, a replica of an Indo-Pacific Coral Island, is the world's largest reef aquarium. A circular passageway leads visitors to the depths of the ocean along a four storey viewing gallery. Through the glass, one can see 6,000 tropical fish of over 400 species. Their diverse colour and shape is beyond human imagination and they swim in front of the glass as if taking part in a beauty contest. The Sharks Aquarium is in a separate section for obvious reasons. An underwater viewing tunnel runs through the aquarium facilitated with a moving walkway where 250 sharks and rays from over 30 species swim overhead.

Ocean Theatre

The main entertainment at the Ocean Park are the dolphin and whale shows in the 3,500-seat Ocean Theatre — on public holidays and at weekends the theatre is invariably packed to capacity.

The dolphins perform first. These gentle mammals are so polite that the first thing they do is to raise themselves out of the water and wave at the audience. Then, in neat formation, they imitate all kinds of human movements.

The clumsy but loveable sea lions are next. Being expert at catching balls and rings and at performing somersaults, their good-natured ways are most endearing.

The performance of Hoi Wai, the killer whale, is the highlight of the show. But, instead of being a killer, she is an outstanding artist, and performs a beautiful pas de deux with her keeper with consummate skill.

Birds' Paradise

Along with water-dwelling creatures, there are also butterflies, birds and "dinosaurs".

The Butterfly House is a 600-square-metre glass building located in Green Park where more than 4,000 butterflies of

1. The Dragon Roller Coaster
2. Sliding on the Raging River
3. A show given by a sea lion and its trainer (by Chan Yat Nin)
4. Many rare species of birds are raised in the Birds' Paradise.
5. The dolphins are skillful performers. (by Chan Yat Nin)









every different colour, flutter and glide. There are also exhibits showing each fascinating stage of a butterfly's life.

A long line of dinosaur footprints leads visitors back to pre-historic times, the dinosaur Discovery Trail features 17 life-like dinosaurs and two animated story-teller characters. The dinosaurs are so life-like that they have been known to frighten the children, who run to hide behind their parents.

Middle Kingdom

The Middle Kingdom, located at the Tai Shue Wan entrance of the Ocean Park, is a "living history or Chinese culture" where you can journey through 13 dynasties and some 5,000 years of Chinese history.

Occupying more than 10,000 square metres, the Middle Kingdom recreates the typical life styles: the Xia, Shang and Zhou Hall is the first of the exhibition halls, where dimmed lights usher people into the past. Among the exhibits are inscriptions on bone and tortoise shells, bronze articles and terra-cotta warriors and horses. There are also statues showing Confucius lecturing to his disciples and Qu Yuan drowning himself in a river.

The outdoor workshops of the Han Dynasty features live arts and crafts demonstrations by people dressed in ancient costumes: firing pottery and porcelain articles, making paper, forging iron, weaving silk and fermenting wine. All the products they produce during their demonstrations are available for sale as souvenirs to tourists.

The period of the Wei, Jin and the Southern and Northern dynasties is represented by temples. Behind a reproduction of the Chongyue Temple Pagoda in Henan Province is a corridor where miniature stone carvings of the Yungang and Longmen grottoes are reproduced. A Taoist temple stands at the end of the exhibition.

The prosperity of the Sui and Tang dynasties is reproduced in a classical marketplace crowded with tea-houses, food stands and shops where only ancient coins are accepted. Visitors can relax in the nostalgic surroundings while sipping tea, eating snacks or shopping.

The Qing dynasty was a period known for its refined life style. The palaces and gardens are exquisitely modelled in the imperial style. Splendid acrobatic and folk performances are staged every day on the Longevity Theatrical Stage.

Adventure Land

Not for the faint-hearted are the funfair rides in Adventure Land: the Ferris Wheel offers a panoramic view of the surrounding scenery, the Crazy Galleon challenges the courage of riders with a 75-degree swing to the left and right; the Spider revolves and rotates at the same time; while the Aerial Octopus, the most popular among children, twists and turns in every direction. However, the most challenging adventure is a ride on the 800-metre-long Dragon Roller Coaster, which travels at the speed of 77 kilometres per hour along a cliff edge! If you still haven't had enough excitement, there's the Raging River which splashes down a 60 kilometre per hour water slide!

Children's World cost HK$50 million to build and is a paradise for kids. There is a miniature theatre, a miniature railway, a pleasure garden and remote control games which the children can't tear themselves away from. At the rear of the Children's World is the Dolphin University, where children can watch the dolphins being trained at close hand.

Water World, a water fun park, is always popular in summer. In addition to a variety of swimming pools, there is the excitement of travelling 22 kilometres an hour down a giant 170-metre-long water slide, or diving off the multi-coloured Sky Ladder – a diving platform reserved for only the bravest swimmers. But perhaps the most pleasant activity in the park is a cruise down the Pleasure River through the Sub-tropical Forest dotted with reproduction historical sites of remote antiquity.

1. Miniature stone carvings of the Wei and Jin dynasties are reproduced in the Middle Kingdom. (by Lam Kin fai)
2. Acrobatics are shown every day on the Longevity Theatrical Stage. (by Chan Yat Nin)
3. A demonstration of ancient weaving skill (by Lam Kin Fai)
4. Buildings in the Middle Kingdom are all of ancient architecture. (by Peng Zhenge)
5. A panoramic view of the Middle Kingdom







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With a market oriented approach and laying prime concern on trade, the company takes advantages of its capital and commands support of its industry. Under the company, there are 10 wholly-owned subsidiary companies, 3 holding subsidiary companies, 5 overseas enterprises, a new product developing centre, a real estate development & management company, a motor repairing centre and a hotel. The total assets amount of 600 million yuan and the net capital amounts to 150 million yuan. The business scope has been extended to hardware, light industrial products, stationery & sport products and textile products. The annual increase of its foreign exchange earnings averaged 25%. The export earnings almost amounted to 100 million US dollars.

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THE OUTLYING ISLANDS AND BEACHES —

HONG KONG's PEACEFUL GARDENS

Photos & Article by
Huang Yanhong











Hong Kong's 235 outlying islands provide the territory with a feeling of spaciousness and multifariousness, both in terms of topography and culture. Many of these islands are uninhabited and few have succumbed to the convenience of automobiles, thereby remaining as quiet, peaceful gardens hidden away from the busy metropolis of Hong Kong.

Landscapes: Strange Rocks and Mysterious Caves

Many of the islands have more rocks, caves and plants than people, which is particulary true on Po Toi Island, where the elements have shaped the rocks

1. Repulse Bay (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. The Gold Coast (by Chan Yat Nin)
3. On the pier in front of the Repulse Tower you can also play with the waves. (by Chan Yat Nin)
4. A beach on Lantau Island (by Wong Kin Man)

into a variety of creative sculptures. Beside the Tai Wan Pier is a rock standing a dozen metres high. Called "Singing Snail", it looks just like what its name suggests. On the southern tip of the island are other rocks: Buddha's Hand, which resembles a set of broken fingers, and the life-like "Monk Rock"; another, the giant tortoise is so vivid that it is easy to believe it has been transformed into stone by some magical power as it crawled up the mountain; while another huge stone on top of the hill is called "Coffin Rock" looks very much like a real casket.

Islets on the eastern sea are famous for their caves. The Sand Pond Cave on Cliff Island is so narrow that it allows only one small boat to pass through at a time. The cave is made even more fantastic by the sun rays penetrating through its "ceiling". Tiu Chung (Hanging Bell) Cave is given its name because of its shape. The islet where it is located has thus been called Tiu Chung Chau. Tung Lung Island surprises visitors with its "Cave Under a Cave", while on the islands of Fo Shek and Ngau Mei one finds more mysterious caves and charming landscapes.

Ping Chau Island is famous for its layered rocks, many having been given names such as "Water-Blocking", "Dragon Dropping into Water" and "Neck-Cutting Islet". The Watch tower Rock standing more than a dozen metres high on the beach is a huge flat slab capable of holding dozens of people.

Strangely-formed rocks can also be found on Tap Mun Island where in the stone forest on the south-east of the islet, there is a huge rock resembling a pagoda, hence its name, Pagoda Gate. This rock also serves as the lighthouse. In the north of the islet is another spot that no visitor miss — Dragon-Neck Tendon.









On Lamma Island a spectacular rock in the shape of a spindle on Ling Kok Hill gives one the feeling that it may roll down at any moment. Ohters on the hill, include the Crescent Moon and Mickey Mouse. Rocks on Lamma Hill include Eagle Beak, Human Face and Ink Stone. A word of warning, the roads leading to them are rather rough.

Po Pin (Broken Edge) Island on the opposite side of Lueng Chuen Wan looks as though it has been hacked off from the Lueng Chuen Wan Island — the shore of this islet is formed by ragged, streaked rocks. These, together with those on Lueng Chuen Wan, provide a sort of "broken" or rugged beauty to the territory.

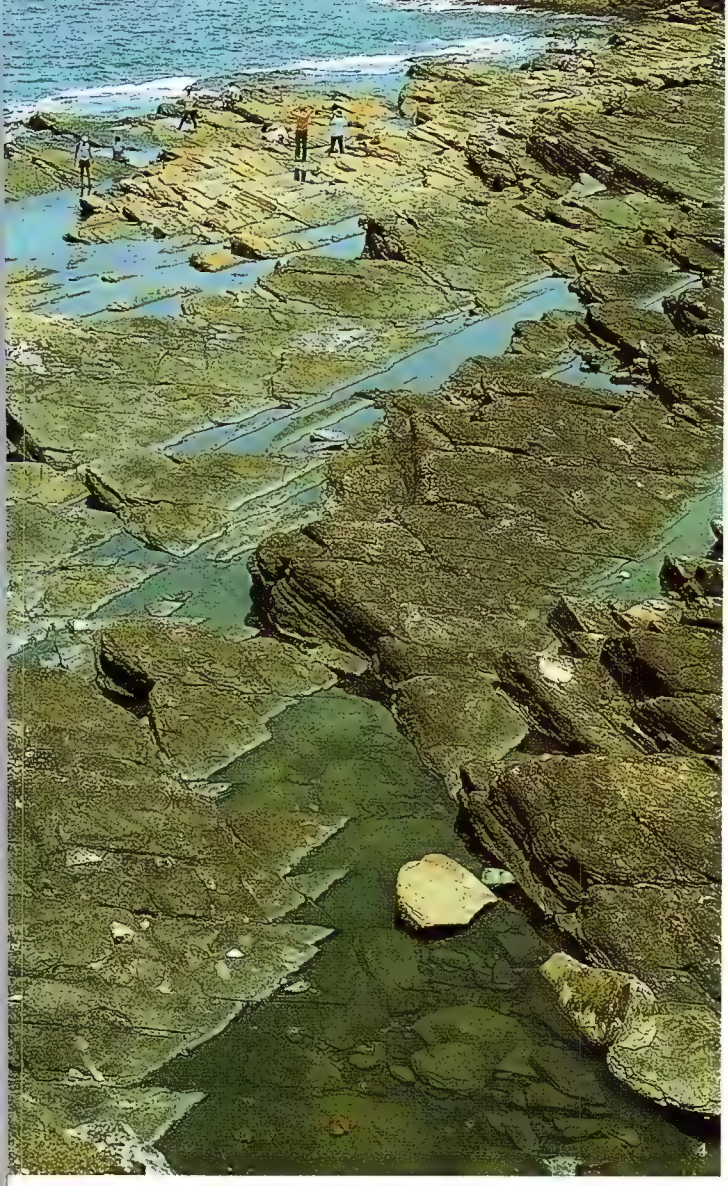
Rocks and caves on Sha Chau, Ap Chau, Kat O Chau and many other islets are all worth seeing, although transport to some of them is not very convenient.

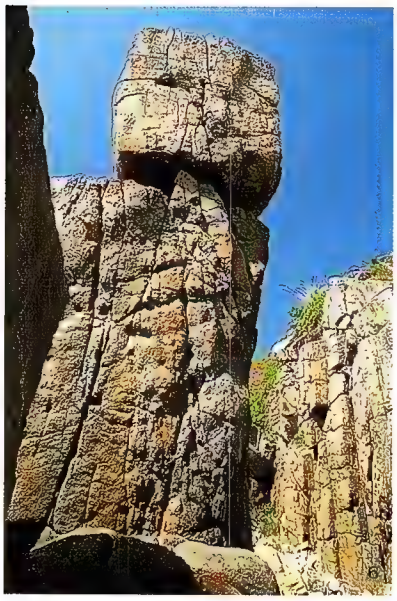
Having Fun: Mountaineering, Sailing, Fishing and Dining

The Outlying Islands are good for all kinds of sports and recreational activities including swimming, walking, bicycling, photography, etc.

Cheung Chau Island is the birth place of Hong Kong's wind surfing sport and has become even more famous since Lee Lai San won her gold medal at the Olympic Games. On a windy summer's day, the waters to the east of the dumbbell-shaped islet are dotted with the colourful sails of windsurfers.

Rock climbers go to Cheung Lung Island where steep cliffs are battered by fierce waves. Among the enthusiasts who bravely challenge the tough cliffs, you can find bold women as well as strong men. Other good sites can also be







found on Shek O and other islands.

Fishing is a relaxing pastime in the waters around the outlying islands, and Po Tai Island is one of the best. The rock standing at the south of the island and facing the vast South China Sea, Nam Kok Tsui, is the southern-most point of Hong Kong's territory.



Eating is an important pastime for visitors to these outlying islands. The variety of fish found in the territory is abundant, including perch, yellow croacker, garoupa and eel. You can taste the best local seafood on Cheung Chau, Tap Mun and other islands. Tai O village on Lantau Island and Cheung Chau are especially famous for salted fish; Ma Wan is noted for its shrimp paste; and Po Toi provides the uniquely cooked seaweed soup, fish porridge and fried sea urchin. Some of the best seafood can be found on Lamma Island. The restaurants set along the shore on Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan not only provide you with delicious seafood but also charming sea views.

1. Po Toi Island is favoured by fishing fans.
2. Tai O is famous for salted fish and shrimp paste. (by Chan Yat Nin)
3. Ma Wan is the site where the Qing government established the customs office.
4. Strangely shaped rocks cover East Peng Chau (by Chen Xiuquan)
5. Peculiar rocks on Lueng Chuen Wan Island
6. Pagoda Gate, the Landmark of Tap Mun Island
7. Seafood restaurants on Lamma Island all overlook the sea.

More to Enjoy: Historical Relics and Traditional Customs

Stone tools and bronzes unearthed on the islands trace human activity back to ancient times. Mysterious carvings can be seen on some of the cliff faces on these islands, for example, a dragon pattern on the cliff at the north-west corner of Tung Lung Island. It is presumed the carving was made by the ancient inhabitants who believed it would conquer the sea demons and thus bring peace and prosperity. On Po Toi Island, six Chinese characters meaning "return" are carved onto the cliff, leaving a poignant puzzle for people today.

Besides the many temples on Cheung Chau Island, there is also a cave which is believed to have been used by a legendary pirate, Cheung Po Tsai, to hide his treasure in by-gone days. Although there are no more treasures to be found, tourists continue to visit the cave for pleasure.

On Lamma Island articles belonging to the Neolithic Age have been discovered. The Magic Wind Cave on the island was said to have been a hiding place used by the Japanese invaders during World War II. Ma Wan is the site where the Qing Customs Office was located, and two tablets, carved with the characters "Kowloon Customs" on one and "borrowing seven square feet from the villagers" on the other, still exist today.

At Chek Lap Kok on Lantau Island, there exist the ruins of a Tang-dynasty plaster kiln and a Qing-dynasty quarry.







Fo Shek Chau is a small uninhabited islet. However, one day in 1948 an aircraft crashed onto the islet and today a pair of tombstones can be found honouring two of the victims, Rong Yiren, a Jiangsu merchant, and the grandson of Franklin Roosevelt.

Most inhabitants of the outlying islands worship the Heavenly Goddess, Sage Hong, the Goddess of Mercy and the Northern God. The local people are so devoted to their gods that they celebrate each of the gods' birthdays every year, usually entertaining their protectors with opera performances and fireworks. On some islands, grand parades are held to expel the demons and to pray for peace and happiness. This kind of parade is held once a year on Cheung Chau and Lueng Chuen Wan, and once every 10 years on Tap Mun and Kat O.

The outlying islands are an escape for people who want to get away from the noise and business of city life. When visiting one of the fishing villages, or walking along a rugged, rural trail, it is easy to become intoxicated with the beauty of nature and forget that one is in Hong Kong.

Places to Relax in Summer

There are several picturesque and popular beaches to be found in Hong Kong, mainly to the south of Hong Kong Island, on the Kowloon Peninsula and on the outlying islands. They form an invaluable attraction to tourists and locals especially on summer weekends and holidays.

Repulse Bay on the south side of the island has been very popular for many years. A massive wall of condos forms a backdrop to the colonial Repulse Bay Hotel. At the eastern end of the beach is a Tin Hau (Heavenly Goddess) Temple. The most notable is a statue of Guanyin, or Goddess of Mercy, standing more than 10 metres tall in front of the temple.

At the western end of the beach is a concrete promenade along which one can walk from Repulse Bay to Deep Water Bay, another popular beach. A short bus journey takes you to either Aberdeen or Stanley. The latter has a main beach on the eastern bay and several others, including St. Stephen's Beach and Hair Pin Beach. Stanley is also popular with tourists because of its small cafes and market.

The Gold Coast in Tsuen Mun on the western coast of the Kowloon

Peninsula attracts visitors with its tropical atmosphere and white beaches in front of Monmartre Square (a Roman-style complex lined with pine trees featuring lots of tourist facilities, restaurants, etc). On weekends and holidays, the square is the venue for art performances as well as an "art market".

Clear Water Bay on the eastern coast of the Kowloon Peninsula, is reputed for its clear water. All three beaches here — Tai Wan Tau Bay, First Bay and Second Bay, have changing rooms and snack bars and are manned by lifeguards. Not far from the beaches is Tai Wan Tau Park, a popular place for kite flying. And more beaches can be found on the outlying islands.





1. During holidays and weekends in summer the beaches are always full of people. (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. Hebe Haven dotted with yachts
3. Huge rocks standing by the sea at Shek O (by Shi Baoxiu)
4. Sand sculpture competition is held yearly at Shek O. (by Shi Baoxiu)
5. Tai Au Mun is good for kite flying.

SINOCHEM JIANGSU



SINOCHEM JIANGSU is an import and export corporation specializing in chemicals and petroleum products. Operating directly under SINOCHEM head office in Beijing, with 19 business and functional departments and 10 subsidiaries in the major cities of Jiangsu Province, the corporation practises an overall control over their planning, finance and business. In 1991, SINOCHEM JIANGSU won the title as a second class enterprise of the state. In 1995, it earned a total of US$ 190 million of foreign exchange in export, topping a list of export exchange earners per staff member in SINOCHEM.

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SINOCHEM JIANGSU speeds its pace toward internationalization, conglomeration and industrialization concurrently in expanding its export volume. With subsidiary companies set up successively in Shenzhen, Beihai, Hainan, Shanghai and Zhangjiagang, it has also established representative offices in many countries and regions such as Thailand, Germany and Hongkong.

SINOCHEM JIANGSU is advancing on its way toward a greater goal. It has been continuously self-improving its internal structure and management, and developing on an ever greater economic scale so as to make its due contribution to the development of China's foreign trade.

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Established in 1987, Jiangsu Knitwear & Home-Textiles Import & Export (Group) Corp. Ltd (JKIE) is a state-owned company which has been granted the right to import and export. Besides knitwear and home-textile products, which form the mainstay of its business, the company is also involved in import and export of garments, textiles, handicrafts and light industrial and electric products. Other forms of business include: manufacturing with supplied materials, manufacturing with imported materials, installation of supplied parts, joint management, co-operative production, barter trade, etc.

Over the past 10 years, the company has accumulated economic strength and established a trade network covering more than 60 countries and regions in the world's five continents. Domestically, it has stable relationships with more than 100 factories in a dozen or so provinces and municipalities which guarantee the supply of goods. The company also has a contingent of professionals who are specialised in trade and business and well trained in foreign languages. During the last decade the company's total import and export volume has reached US$1.4 billion. It has been listed as one of the 500 largest exporters annually since 1992. In 1995, it became one of China's 500 strongest state-owned enterprises and has received repeated praise from relevant offices of monetary, customs and taxation because of its good business performance.

High Hope International Group Jiangsu Knitwear & Home-Textiles Import and Export Corporation Ltd. (HHIG) was founded in December 1996 with JKIE as its core. The new formation and environment give JKIE even greater economic strength and better conditions in which to develop its business. As always, the company will continue to adhere to its principle of "customers first, trust and honour first, quality service and eternal supremacy". Its target is to build itself into an internationalised, diversified enterprise.

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Members of the Board and Deputy General Managers:
Tao Huaiping, Xu Beibei and Xu Jiuyin

Lantau Island:

Too Much to See in One Day

Photos by So Long Chi
Article by Gloria Shang

It was the last day of my 10-day trip to Hong Kong and I decided to visit Lantau Island (Tai Yue Shan or Dayu Mountain). Lying to the west of Hong Kong Island, Lantau is the largest island in the region, which is almost twice the size of the former.





Boarding a ferry at the New Pier in Central, it took me about an hour to arrive at Mui Wo (Silver Mine Bay), the ferry pier on the island. Mui Wo became a settlement some 400 years ago. A basin surrounded by mountains, it is nestled by five villages distributed like the five petals of a plum flower, hence its name, literally meaning Plum Flower Nest. Archaeological discoveries show that it once served as a hub for Chinese commercial ships which transported goods for export during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It is also called Silver Mine Bay because a silver mine was once found on a mountain slope.

Walking along the beach of the Silver Mine Bay, I watched the arriving and departing ferries which produced a harmonious hum in concert with the dancing waves bathed in the golden morning rays. My heart was filled with the peaceful atmosphere of Lantau Island — what a luxury to be able to hide oneself away from the busy, noisy city life of Hong Kong!

The beach is good for a series of activities such as swimming, fishing and kite playing, but with the big Lantau Island to see, I did not dare to linger around. Instead, I hurried to continue my tour — and pilgrimage — on the island. I took an air-conditioned bus setting off for Tai O, the so called Venice of Hong Kong.

Water Street of Tai O Village

Tai O, a fishing village located on the western coast of Lantau Island, has long been favoured by tourists and locals alike. The nickname "Venice of Hong Kong" may not be an explicit reflection of Tai O in terms of the architectural style and cultural background, but the narrow strait which separates the town into two halves, and the small boats plying back and forth on the water, plus the numerous shops selling local products lining the narrow lanes and the flocks of carefree tourists strolling through the streets create such an atmosphere that it is almost impossible to find more apt description for it.

A small bridge crosses the strait linking the town's two busiest streets but many tourists prefer to cross over to the other side on one of the small fishing boats which is towed across by hand using a rope fastened to both shores. The specialities of Tai O are shrimp paste and salted fish. The latter hang in abundance from the rafters of the numerous grocery shops, like signboards. In fact, there are so many of

Previous page: This giant Buddha statue has become the landmark of Lantau Island.
1. The archway of Po Lin Monastery in a misty night
2. Playing on the beach of the Silver Mine Bay
3. Misty, all too misty!



them that at the entrance of the street one can see nothing but strings of fish lining both sides of the lane far into the distance, until the two lines meet. The streets are also packed with many seafood restaurants and although most of them are small and not well furnished, the aroma drifting out onto the street from the kitchens causes passers-by to slow their pace or simply walk in and take a seat. Naturally I would not miss the opportunity to taste fish — both fresh and salted — from a real fishing village.

After a little bargaining, I paid HK$30 to sail along the narrow waterway. The boat woman, looking well into her 60s, used her scull to push the small boat away from the shore. Her deeply tanned skin, her strong arms and bare feet were signs that she had spend most of her life on the sea. I noticed that all the boat masters were old ladies in their 60s or even 70s. Through chatting with my boat woman, I learned that the menfolk are all fishermen who are often away at sea, leaving their women behind. In addition, the younger generation who yearn for change have moved to Hong Kong or Kowloon to be involved in other businesses rather than fishing.

The houses along the water lane were mostly fashioned out of abandoned boats; as extra rooms were required wooden columns were planted into the water to support the extensions. Today, these boat houses appear in different models, some remain shack-dwellings, others are beautifully decorated two-storey mansions. Irrespective of how their houses look, the residents appear to enjoy their life — I saw old people gather on their balconies, chatting, drinking tea or playing Chinese chess; others sat on their front deck fishing. Suddenly, a group of young people (who might have come home on vacation) started up their motor boat, and with engine roaring and music blaring they sped off into the distance and vanished at the far end of the channel. I could not help looking up at the grandma — her eternal, solemn face, her hands steadily holding the scull — the gap between the two generations is a vivid reflection of Tai O's today and yesterday.

Receiving Wish Granting from the Buddha

It is a 35-minute bus ride from Tai O to Po Lin Monastery. When the bus stopped at the foot of Muyu (Wooden Fish) Hill at Ngong Ping, I stepped off the bus, and instead of rushing off up the hill I preferred to stand at the foot of the hill and admire the Buddha — its mightiness and significance was far beyond my expectation. Sitting on the top of the Wooden Fish Hill, the Buddha statue measures 23.18 metres tall; his legs crossed on the heavenly altar; his right hand raised forming the "Fear Not" sign symbolising the removal of hardship and suffering from the human world; his left hand resting on his knee forming the "Wish Granting" sign which conveys his blessing of happiness to all creatures on earth. His solemn yet smiling face transmits a feeling of calmness and benevolence to everyone who gazes at him.





1. Lives in the fishing villages of Tai O are depicted on stonewalls. (by Chapman Lee)
2. Shek Pik Reservoir viewed from Mt. Keung Shan
3. The unique decoration on the beam of Hau Wong Palace, Tung Chung
4. The extravagant pendent lamp in Lo Han (Arhat) Temple
5. Tin Hau Temple, Chek Lap Kok New Village
6. Salted fish, a speciality of Tai O (by Shi Baoxiu)
7. In the water village of Tai O, one can hire a boat for sightseeing. (by Shi Baoxiu)

The statue is seated on a round base surrounded with white banisters built in the imitation of the Tiantan (Heavenly Temple) in Beijing. The white staircase (consisting of 260 steps) leading up to the Buddha statue gave me the feeling that I was mounting a heavenly ladder to the sacred upper world. The huge structure is divided into three floors inside: the first floor is the Merits Hall, the second is the Exhibition Hall and the third, the Memorial Hall. In the Merits Hall are displayed four murals depicting the life of Sakyamuni. Standing at the centre is a 25-metre-tall *nanmu* wooden sculpture of Ksitigarbha. Above the statue hangs a six-ton bronze bell. Controlled by a computer, the bell strikes 108 times each day between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m., which is believed to be able to drive away the 108 troubles bothering mankind. In the Exhibition Hall on the second floor, a huge woodcut (believed to the largest in the world) is displayed around the circular corridor. On it, the images of 160 Bodhisattvas attending the Buddha's lecture is vividly depicted. In the Memorial Hall on the upper floor, two pieces of Sarira from Sri Lanka are worshipped. Stepping out of the hall and again looking up at the giant Buddha, I could not help wondering how it came into being. The statue, weighing 250 tons, is composed of 202 bronze parts, the heaviest piece weighing six tons. This amazing project was designed in Beijing and cast in Nanjing.

From the terrace around the base of the statue I saw the glazed golden roofs of Po Lin Monastery shimmer under the sun. Following the flow of other visitors, I went down to pay my respects at the largest Buddhist institute in Hong Kong. Many pilgrims were burning incense sticks and paper sacrifices in the burners in front of the temple, some of them were so devout that they kneeled down and touched the ground with their heads and palms while quietly murmuring their prayers to the Buddha.

The admission ticket costing HK$60 (or HK$100 for VIPs) for the entrance to the Giant Buddha Statue's Exhibition Hall and the Memorial Hall, is also usable for having a vegetarian meal at the monastery. As the dining hall is always crowded and the tables are busily used in rotation, one has to be there on time and at the exact table designated. For many pilgrims, without a vegetarian meal their pilgrimage would not be considered complete.

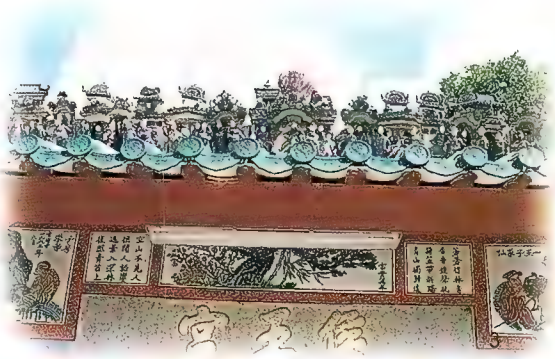
Tung Chung — A New Town in Birth

My last stop was Tung Chung which was easy to reach by bus from Po Lin Monastery. Surrounded by mountains on three sides, this is an entrance to the sea with obvious strategic importance. It became a large habitation during the Ming Dynasty and began to be guarded by imperial armies in the Qing Dynasty with battlement and walled city being built.

Of all the places I visited on the Lantau Island, Tung Chung represents the changing face of the tranquil land best. The small ancient town is undergoing era-making changes while construction of a brand new airport city is in full swing. Across the strait, the huge arms of cranes could be seen busily rising and falling on the construction site of the new airport at Chek Lap Kok, which is scheduled to begin operation in 1998. On this side of the water, construction of a series of relevant facilities and residential houses has taken off. For giving birth to the new town, the old Tin Hau Temple has been moved to a new site. Standing outside the Chek Lap Kok New Village, the new structure seems to have been injected in some new spirit.

Taking a bus from Tung Chung, I rode all the way through from Lantau Island via Ma Wan and Tsing Yi to Chuen Wan along the Tsing Yi-Lantau Express Way, thanks to the newly completed Tsing Ma Bridge which links the three islands.

Staring at the hills and waters passing by the bus window, I felt as if I was returning from an unfinished mission. There were far too many things to see on Lantau Island and I had covered too few of them. I must come back (and I knew I would) because I believed Lantau Island has facets representing both the oldest and the newest aspects of Hong Kong. However, during my next trip, I hoped I would still be able to find the island's secluded and peaceful characteristics.





4



5



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Tourist Map of Lantau Island

1. Road & trail linking Ngong Ping & Tung Chung
2. Road & trail for visiting western Lantau



1. Construction in Tung Chung is in full swing.
2. The main hall of the Kwun Yam Temple
3. A zigzag bridge over a lotus pond in Ng Yuen, Lung Tsai







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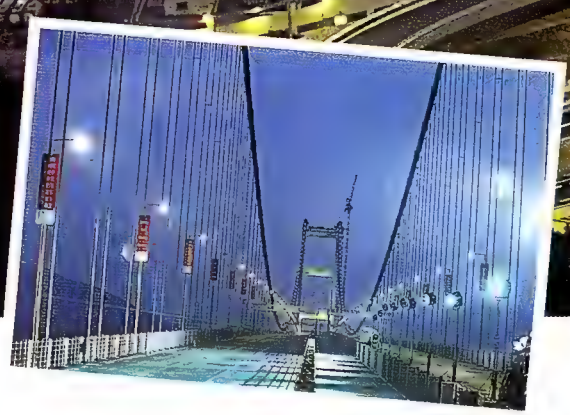
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The 2.2-kilometre-long Tsing Ma Bridge crosses two straits to connect the islands of Tsing Yi, Ma Wan and Lantau.







Photos & Article by Shi Baoxiu

From Tsing Ma Bridge to the Gold Coast



When the completed Tsing Ma Bridge was put into operation, the resulting pride of the Hong Kong people was immeasurable. The 2.2-kilometre two-tier suspension bridge has set a new world record in civil engineering. It is the longest road and rail bridge of its kind, and links the three islands of Tsing Yi, Ma Wan and Lantau. The bridge not only makes transportation to those areas much easier, but it has become a new landmark in Hong Kong, and is already a favourite for both locals and visiting tourists.





1. The green island of Tsing Yi, whose name literally means Green Clothes
2. Busy streets and deserted mountain, Tsing Yi
3. Diners come from afar to taste the famous Sham Tseng roast goose.
4. Restaurants around the archway of Sham Tseng Village specialising in roast goose
5. The tablet erected during the Qing Dynasty marking the Kowloon Customs office







Ships look like leaves floating downstream, vehicles like scurrying beetles...

Small Island Playing Big Role

Ma Wan, the smallest of the three islands, plays an important role in the stability and sturdiness of the entire structure — it bears the weight of the Tsing Ma Bridge and the Kap Shui Mun Bridge. However, the importance of this tiny island goes way back to the Guangxu reign of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) when the island served as a customs port — in the courtyard of the community commission is a tablet engraved with the characters "Kowloon Customs". Walking further on, one reaches the Tung Wan Beach where, besides being able to enjoy the sunshine and play in the water, one can get a good view of the Tsing Ma Bridge with the skyline of western Hong Kong in the background. Looking up at the Kap Shui Mun Bridge, one can feel the strength of this small island. It is therefore no wonder that upon completion of the two bridges, people's attitude towards Ma Wan has changed — seemingly it has grown much larger almost overnight.

Liu To Mountain: As Unsophisticated as the Loess Plateau

Liu To Mountain on Tsing Yi Island is not particularly tall to start with, but looking at it from the lofty Tsing Ma Bridge it appears even smaller — its highest peak is only a little higher than the bridge tower. However, the mountain has a unique charm. Its smooth, gentle slopes display an internal strength reminiscent of the Loess Plateau in North China. On the top of the hills, there are no trees, only the thick-growing grasses which cover the land like a lush carpet, providing an endless view of pleasant greenery.

The top of the peak gives the best view of Tsing Ma Bridge. The enormous structure seems to loom before you, its highway extending like a huge ribbon. The bridge stretches across to Ma Wan, and seems to become more and more narrow until it meets the Kap Shui Mun Bridge. If you were to use your imagination, you might find that the cords resemble the strings of a gigantic harp. If anyone had the strength to pluck them, the sound would surely be loud and strong enough to cause the sea to surge.

From the top of the bridge, the objects below become dwarfed. The passenger ships, some as large as tall buildings, suddenly look like small leaves floating downstream, while the vehicles look like orderly beetles scurrying across the bridge.

The Ancient Sham Tseng Village

Between the western end of the Tsing Ma Bridge and the mountains in the New Territories is Sham Tseng Village. Though literally meaning "deep well", its name is not derived from its wells, deep or otherwise. Instead the village is widely known for its famous produce which is now a brand name — Sham Tseng Roast Goose. One enters the village through a stone archway, above which the characters Sham Tseng Village are written. But in fact it no longer looks like a village, but more like a market for surrounding the archway are a variety of restaurants and food stalls selling roast goose. Further into the mountains, one finds the New Sham Tseng Village which, paradoxically, appears older and more country-like than the former. Along a small street, roast goose has become such big business in this village that some villagers even roast goose at home and then come here to sell them. At around dusk, the seven to eight restaurants specialising in roast goose are always packed full of diners, most of whom have come from far away to taste the village's speciality.

Bridge Exhibition

Near to Sham Tseng Village, at Ting Kau, is the New Airport Exhibition Centre where models, designs and photographs of both the new airport and the Tsing Ma Bridge give a clear illustration of these two impressive projects. The design of the Tsing Yi-Lantau Highway is also illustrated through a series of models. From the viewing terrace outside the exhibition hall, one gets a breathtaking view of the magnificent Tsing Ma Bridge.









1. One can find food of every kind at the Gold Coast Hotel.
2. A place to try one's painting skills
3. Yachts moored in the bay
4. The weekend art market
5. The mediterranean-style Monmartre Square
6. The man-made Gold Coast Beach





A two-kilometre long man-made beach

The Gold Coast

Travelling west along Castle Peak Road, one arrives at the district called the Gold Coast. At Monmartre Square, a mediterranean-style complex, one can relax at any one of the outlets serving food or drinks, or simply shop. During weekends and holidays, the square often becomes the venue for an art market where performances are staged and art and handicraft works are sold. Some artists show up to paint portraits or cut shadow pictures for customers. Nearby, the Gold Coast Hotel attracts visitors with its unique architectural style and the tempting array of various cooking styles including Chinese, Western and Southeast Asian.

The name Gold Coast evolved from the two-kilometre-long beach in the area, which, believe it or not, is totally man-made. When one considers the amount of money and effort put into this immense project, the name seems very apt!

Translated by Eva Liu

Traveller's Tips:

♦ **Transport**: To Ma Wan: Take bus No. 53, 243A or 243DB from the bus stop outside Tsuen Wan MTR (subway) station and alight at Sham Tseng; take the ferry to Ma Wan.

To Liu To Mountain on Tsing Yi Island: From Tsuen Wan MTR station, take bus No. 42M or 43A (both circular routes) and alight at Tsing San; walk to the end of the highway from where one starts the climb up the mountain.

To Gold Coast: Take bus No. 52M, 52X or 53 from any stop on the Tsuen Wan Highway; alternatively, take a bus from Jordan to Tuen Mun and alight at Monmartre Square.

♦ **Suggested Tour Routes**: Ordinarily, one can cover all the spots mentioned above in one day, visiting Tsing Yi and Ma Wan islands first to see the bridges, then go to Sham Tseng to eat roasted goose, then visit the bridge exhibition centre, finishing at the Gold Coast. Alternatively, a more leisurely option is the Ma Wan – Sham Tseng – Gold Coast route.

♦ **Geographical conditions**: Liu To Peak is 218 metres above sea level; the trail winding up its smooth slopes is about two kilometres long. Take a map, as there are no road signs

♦ **Food**: There are many places along each route where one can find food. However, it is advisable to carry drinking water if climbing Liu To Mountain.

♦ **Degree of Difficulty**: Suitable for families and those in average health.



GROUP

JIANGSU LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT (GROUP) CORPORATION

Jiangsu Light Industrial Imp. & Exp. (Group) Corporation, formerly China Light Industrial Products Imp. & Exp. Corp. Jiangsu Branch established in Jan. 1974, deals mainly in the import and export business of light industrial products and other lines of goods licensed by the state, accepting at the same time to act as agent for the above mentioned, while entertaining othe trading activities such as joint-venture, joint manufacturing, compensation trade, processing business, barter, after-sale services, entrepot trade, personnel training, shipping, & storage as well as department store, hotel & restaurant, recreation center, real estate and finally, computer development. It is also allowed to engage in other domestic business.

Twenty years after its establishment, the corporation has emerged now as one of the major highly efficient import & export corporations in China and been selected as such in various national nominations, through its favourable location at the resourceful Yangtze River Delta, its possession of more than three hundred qualified and well experienced staff, and because of its relentless effort at expediting the shift of managing system, its annual export and import reached as high as two hundred seventy million US Dollars, capital fund more than five hundred million RMB Yuans.

The corporation consists of twenty two export departments, specializing in six mainlines of business, namely: machinery & electrical appliances, leather products, sundry goods, stationery & sporting-travelling goods, toys, footwear & headgear, dealing respectively in a variety of goods like hardware, bicycles & sewing machines, watches & clocks, electrical appliances, leather goods , suitcases & bags, sundry goods, Christmas articles, giftware & stationery, soft toys and all kinds of shoes. Besides, it is equipped with six functional departments: New Products Development, Import trade, General Manager Affairs Office, Planning & Accounting, Industry Management, Shipping & Storage-Packing.

It has invested one hundred million RMB Yuans in building comprehensive industrial development bases in Baohua and Chashan Districts (with easy access to national highway network) and opened eight affiliates in Shanghai, Suzhou, Wuxi, Chang Zhou and other cities. The corporation has also set up five subordinate enterprises, thirty five share-holding joint-ventures, sixty two enterprises jointly cooperated by the corporation and factories, while maintaining business connections with as many as seven hundred factories.

To strengthen the marketing network, it has founded abroad eleven subsidiaries and representative offices in The United States, Germany, Japan, Hongkong, Middle East, West Africa, South Africa, Latin America, East Europe and The Commonwealth Of Independent States.

In the widely import and export trade field, the corporation is aiming at maximally meeting with our customer's requirements; under the drive of market economy and Enter-Gatt, it intends to adopt more flexible policy to be in line with market.

Marching with the motives of internationalization, industrialization, incorporation and multiplicity, Jiangsu Light Industrial Products Imp. & Exp. (Group) Corporation cordially welcome friends to approach us for business talks from all over the world.



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MUSEUMS — SOUL

Museum of Tea Ware

In a metropolis like Hong Kong, one can get so overwhelmed by the hectic working pace that there barely seems to be enough time for pleasures. However, a visit to a museum can be surprisingly rewarding and refreshing, and, there are so many of them that one needs to work out a plan to visit them one by one.



Anyone who has been to the Hong Kong Park has probably noticed a building there of classical Greek architecture, in front of which many young couples like to be photographed. The two-storey building is the Museum of Tea Ware. On the upper floor is the exhibition hall for teaware while on the ground floor is a multi-purpose hall, decorated to resemble a traditional Chinese teahouse. Its interior has been designed in the traditional Chinese style and decorated with period furniture. This permanent exhibition introduces the long history of the Chinese method of preparing tea. It features 600 pieces of teaware dating from the Western Zhou Dynasty (1100 B.C. to 771 B.C.) to the present. Upstairs is a thematic exhibition of teaware which regularly changed.

Next to the museum is K. S. Lo Gallery. Opened in 1995, the gallery houses a collection of 25 pieces of rare antique ceramics and 600 Chinese seals donated by Dr. K. S. Lo.



Location: Hong Kong Park, 10 Cotton Tree Drive, Central, Hong Kong.
Tel.: 2869 0690 (Museum of Tea Ware)
2869 6690 (K.S. Lo Gallery)
Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed on Mondays and some public holidays.
Admission: Free

1. Blue and white porcelain plate, Ming Dynasty
2. Museum of Tea Ware

OF THE METROPOLIS

Hong Kong Museum of History

The impending return of Hong Kong to China incites people's interest in the history of Hong Kong. To meet the needs, "The Story of Hong Kong", a permanent exhibition on Hong Kong's history, is on show in the Hong Kong Museum of History in Kowloon Park.

The exhibition recounts Hong Kong's 6,000 year-old history – from the earliest human settlement to the present day. Breaking away from the conventional mode of presentation which may seem boring, the exhibition takes a different approach: it portrays the evolution of Hong Kong from a primitive community to a modern international metropolis, using life-size reconstructions of street scenes and household interiors. These are accompanied by soundtracks of daily conversation. Three of the particular scenes on show are vestiges from the New Stone Age as found on a beach, a bedroom inside a rural household and a 19th-century street.



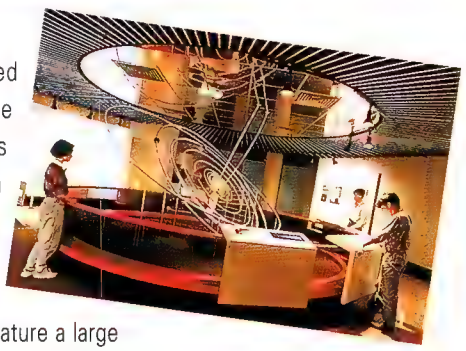
The lifelike 19th-century street scene in Hong Kong Museum of History

Also on display are unearthed relics such as those from the Lei Cheng Uk Tomb of the Han Dynasty and from some furnaces and kilns of the Tang Dynasty, historic photographs and imitation stone engravings.

Thematic exhibitions covering Hong Kong's development are held regularly here.

Location: Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.
Tel: 2367 1124
Opening hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Sunday and public holidays, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Closed on Mondays and some public holidays.
Admission: HK$10 for adults, HK$5 for children/ senior citizens (aged 60 and over). Free on Wednesdays.

Hong Kong Space Museum



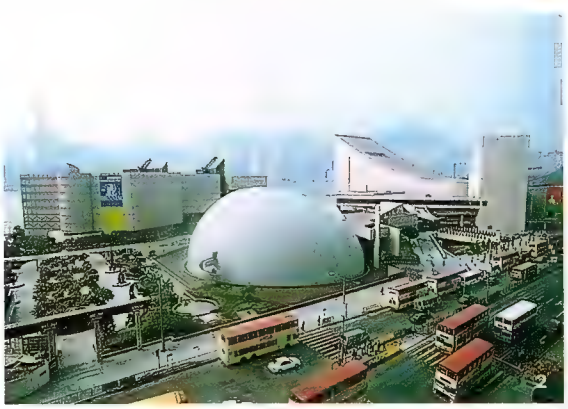
This museum's egg-shaped architecture has long made it the landmark on Kowloon's waterfront by the Victoria Harbour.

Two exhibition halls and a space theatre are housed in the museum. The exhibition halls feature a large array of exhibits on astronomy and space sciences, many of them being interactive. For examples, one can launch a simulated rocket, walk and jump like an astronaut on the moon, experience what it is like to be in a training on the flight simulator, calculate the amount of cosmic radiation the earth is exposed to by observing a cloud chamber and let one's imagination run wild to create an extra-terrestrial being.

Different omnimax screenings and sky shows are featured regularly in the dome-shaped space theatre, one of the world's largest planetariums. The omnimax screenings cover a wide variety of subjects, from history to nature, and the images projected on the hemispheric screen make you feel as if you are inside the scene. Sky shows deal with topics on astronomy.

Lectures and astronomical observations are held regularly.

Location: 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.
Tel: 2734 2722
Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday, 1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday and some public holidays, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Admission: for exhibition halls, adult: HK$10; students, the disabled and senior citizens (aged 60 or above): HK$5.
Free on Wednesdays.
Space theatre: adults: HK$30; students, the disabled and senior citizens: HK$15.



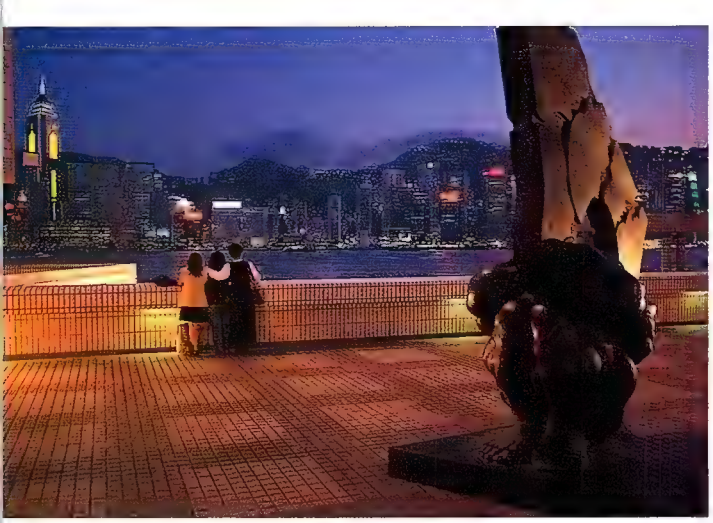
1. A model of the solar system as displayed in the exhibition hall
2. The Hong Kong Space Museum

Hong Kong Museum of Art

Situated next to the Space Museum is the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the latest addition to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. The museum is a modern and spacious five-storey complex (including a basement). There are seven exhibition galleries, four of which are dedicated to the display of Chinese antiquities, Chinese fine arts, historical paintings and contemporary Hong Kong art, with a collection of 3,000 paintings and calligraphy works.

The 600 pieces of Chinese antiquities displayed include ceramics, coloured enamels, bronzeware and jade pieces. The 1,000 ancient paintings include oil paintings, watercolour paintings and sketches by Chinese masters and Europeans travelling in China. The contemporary Hong Kong art works include sketches, lithographs, calligraphy and watercolour paintings. Thematic exhibitions such as those of foreign art or individual artists are also staged here. Lectures and workshops are held regularly.

Location: 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.
Tel: 2734 2167
Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sundays and some public holidays, 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Admission: Adults: HK$10; students, the disabled and senior Citizens: HK$5; Free on Wednesdays.



Viewing the Victoria Harbour from the terrace of Hong Kong Museum of Art (by Shi Baoxiu)

Hong Kong Science Museum



Hong Kong's first passenger plane DC3 on show in the museu

Visit to museum cannot be more active and fun than that to Hong Kong Science Museum, where about 60 per cent of the 500 interesting exhibits are "hands-on". Through experiments with the exhibits, one can learn more about how scientific knowledge is applied in our daily life.

The exhibitions in the four-storey museum cover such fields and themes as optometry, acoustics, mechanics, meteorology, geology, mathematics, electromagnetism, computer science and robotics, civil engineering, transport and communications, food science, household technology and energy sources. The most eye-catching exhibit is the 20-metre-tall 'energy machine' which, when activated, triggers a series of spectacular displays of the transformation of energy.

Just imagine: producing a video programme by yourself, jumping into a flight and driving simulator all raring to go, testing the speed of your reactions and gauging your health and sensitivity, trying to fix your shadow on the wall, challenging a computer to an intelligence game, having yourself wrapped in a big soap bubble, generating lightning .... try all these and you will wonder how you ever did it.

Lectures, films, computer courses and competitions are organised regularly.

Location: 2 Science Museum Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon
Opening hours: Tuesday-Friday, 1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Saturday and some public holidays, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Admission: Adults: HK$25; students, the disabled and senior citizens: HK$12.5, Free on Wednesdays.

Police Museum

"Bobby" in Britain, "cop" in the United States and "poulet" in French. In Hong Kong, the police are called the "green clothes" or "blue beret" in the local slang. "Green clothes" derives from the uniform worn by the Chinese corporals at the end of the 19th century and "blue beret" is a current slang word for the mobilised unit of the Hong Kong Police Force who wear this kind of headgear. But of course the time-honoured Hong Kong Police Force is much more than what these slang terms suggest. A visit to the Police Museum affords a better understanding of the law-enforcers.

The museum is divided into four sections which house over 600 exhibits, delving into the more than 100-year old history of the Hong Kong Police Force.

The Orientation Gallery introduces a general history of the police force in Hong Kong with historic photographs, files, period uniforms, arms and kits.

The Narcotics Gallery features samples of different types of banned drugs, tools and wares for taking and trafficking in drugs, and the reconstruction of a setting for extracting heroin.

The Triad Societies Gallery unravels the mysteries and myths of the Hong Kong version of the mafia. The history, activities, weapons and the rites and rules of the criminal organisations are illustrated and displayed.

Staged in the Current Exhibitions Gallery are thematic exhibitions featuring different aspects of the Hong Kong Police Force.

Location: 27 Coombe Road, Hong Kong Island
Tel: 2849 7019
Opening hours:
Wednesday-Sunday,
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.
Closed on Mondays and public holidays.
Admission: Free



The Orientation Gallery of the Police Museum (by Iris Wong)

Hong Kong Arts Centre

There are in fact quite a number of places where you can refresh yourself after the busy schedule on weekdays. Hong Kong Arts Centre, a "cultural oasis", is one such place. In the institute are art galleries, cafe, handicraft shop, bookshop, theatres and studios: quite a buffet of food for the mind.

On the fourth and fifth floor are the Pao Galleries, where exhibitions especially of contemporary arts are held regularly.

To slake your thirst for the performing arts, you should not miss the concerts, dance performances, operas and experimental dramas staged in the Shousun and McCauley Theatres. Both mainstream and unconventional tastes are catered for.

Lim Po Yin Theatre has been drawing cinephiles like a magnet because a great variety of alternative films from all over the world are regularly shown here. It definitely has something different to offer from the mainstream cinema networks.

The cafe, with tables on the 3rd and 4th floors, is a rendezvous for art lovers and artists alike.

The education section, which was established by the centre in 1984, organises more than 300 courses a year, taking care of a wide range of interests and pursuits: from courses on film, visual art, literature, applied arts to classes on music, dance, pottery, painting and calligraphy.

Location: 2 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong Island
Tel: 2582 0200
Opening hours of the Pao Galleries: during the days of an exhibition, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Admission: Free

Sam Tung Uk (Walled Village) Museum



Sam Tung Uk Museum (by Iris Wong)

Lives of the Hakka people in walled villages are not an insignificant part of Hong Kong's history. You can find some of Hong Kong's historical origins by touring the villages. Sam Tung Uk Museum in Tsuen Wan used to be one of these villages. The walled village was originally built by a Hakka clan 200 years ago. Covering 2,000 square metres, the museum consists of an ancestral hall, two rows of side houses, an exhibition hall and a lecture hall. Period furniture, handicrafts, antiques and farming implements are on display, illustrating the history of Tsuen Wan and the life of the early settlers in those villages.

The name "Sam Tung Uk" (three-beam house) comes from the structure of the village house, whose ancestral hall (upper hall) and two lounges (middle and lower halls) are each supported by a beam. Save the ancestral hall and the front gate which are decorated with frescos and painted wooden sculptures, the rest of the building is simple and plain, reflecting the villagers' frugal lifestyle. Loess and lime are the main construction materials of the village house. The beams are made of Chinese fir.

Thematic exhibitions on ceramics and potteries of the rural village are held regularly.

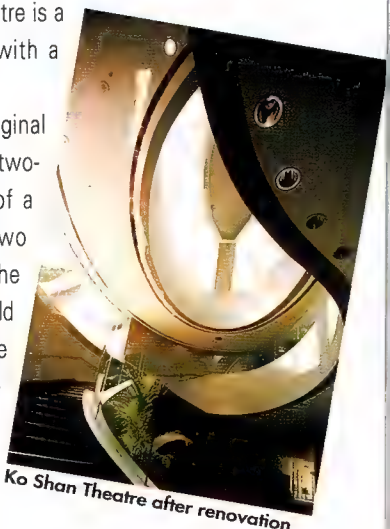
Location: Kwu Uk Lane, Tsuen Wan, the New Territories
Tel: 2411 2001
Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday to Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Closed on Tuesdays and some public holidays.
Admission: Free

Notes: photographs used in this article are provided by courtesy of the Urban Council of Hong Kong (except for those with identified photographers).

Ko Shan Theatre

Before its renovation started two years ago, audiences were impressed by Ko Shan Theatre's semi-open air spectator stand. Reopened in October 1996, the theatre is a new modernised indoor theatre with a seating capacity of 1,000.

Built on the site of the original semi-open air spectator stand is a two-storey complex, which consists of a lobby, a small exhibition area, two rehearsal rooms and a garden on the roof. Art exhibitions are frequently held here. Next to the theatre is the luxuriant Ko Shan Park, an ideal place to rest.



Ko Shan Theatre after renovation

Location: 77 Ko Shan Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon.
Tel: 2740 9222

Hong Kong Coliseum

Attending concerts (both pop and classical) at Hong Kong Coliseum has long been part of Hong Kong people's leisure activities. Yet what makes the venue well known is not just the stars who have performed there but also because of its imposing architecture. Its structure resembles an inverted pyramid and defies gravity. Roofed with steel and with a floor space of 10,000 square metres, the coliseum opened in 1983 and has a seating capacity of 12,500. It has been the venue of many sport events, amenity programmes, exhibitions and conferences. The floor can be changed to suit different sports and can even be converted into an ice-skating rink.

The 22,000-square-metre square outside the coliseum provides the locals a garden where they like to take a walk or hold parties.

Location: 9 Cheong Wan Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Tel: 2355 7217

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The New Look of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Article by Winston Yau



Jutting into the harbour at Wan Chai's waterfront is Hong Kong's latest futuristic edifice. The spacecraft-like extension to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre was the venue for the celebration of Hong Kong's big day — Hong Kong's Handover Ceremony on June 30, 1997 that marked the territory's return to China. About 4,000 distinguished guests attended the event.

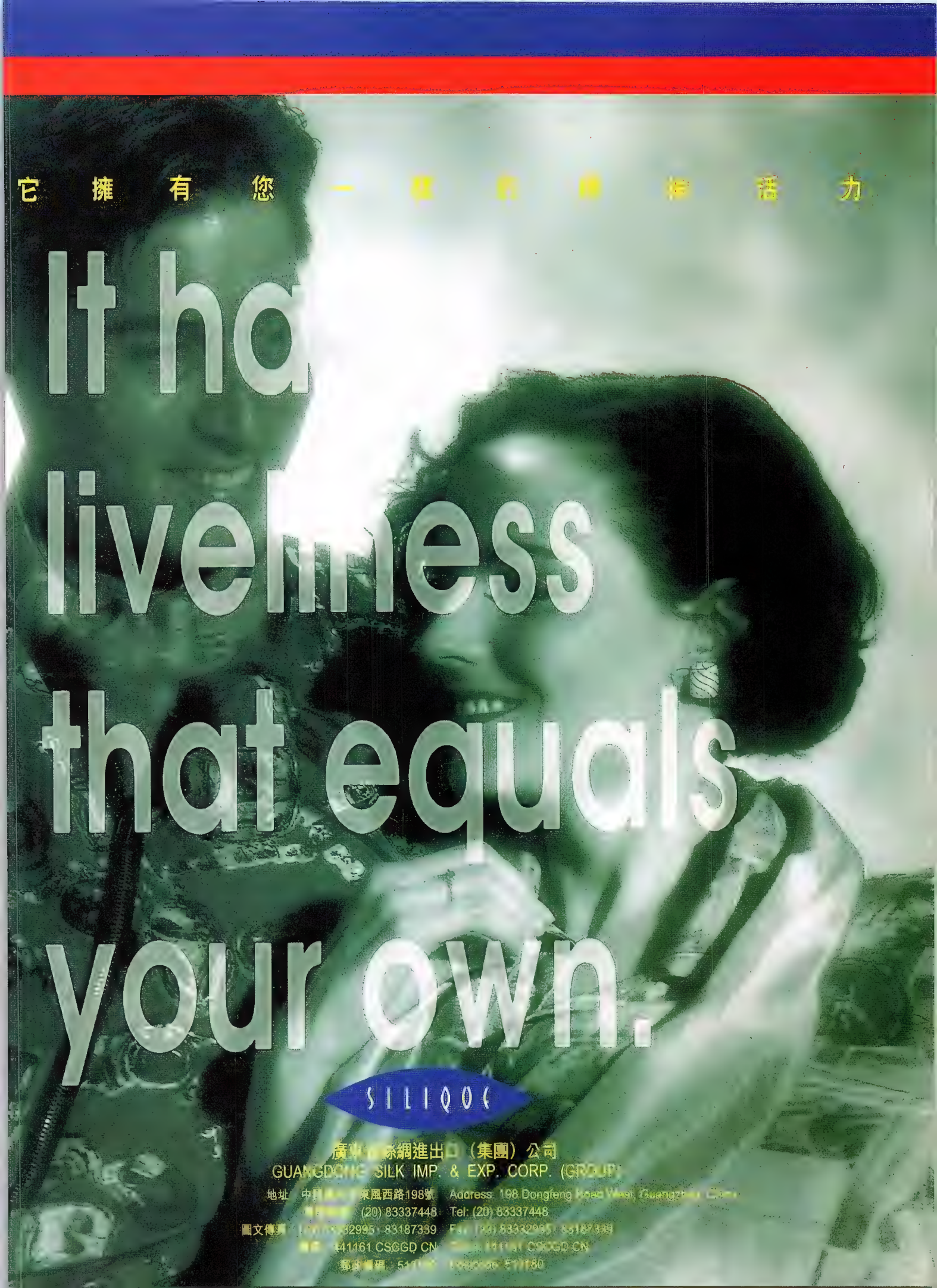
The gigantic structure (1.67 million square feet), has been built on a plot of reclaimed land in front of the existing Convention and Exhibition Centre. It stretches right out into the harbour and more than doubles the area of the original convention and exhibition centre to 2.67 million square feet (248,000 square metres). All together there are five exhibition halls, two convention halls (with seating capacities of 1,800 and 3,800 respectively), two large foyers, two theatres (with seating capacities of 336 and 637 respectively), 52 meeting rooms of various sizes and seven restaurants. There is a host of supporting facilities such as car parks (1,400 parking spaces), offices and shops. In particular, all the restaurants together provide seating for 1,800 people and cater to all tastes, serving cuisines from all over the world. Adjacent to the centre are two world-class hotels, the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong and the New World Harbour View which provide 572 and 862 guest rooms respectively.

Since it first opened in 1988, the centre has been playing an important supporting role in Hong Kong's development. Almost all of Hong Kong's key large-scale functions such as conferences, seminars, exhibitions and fairs are held in the centre. To name a few, they include: the Education and Careers Expo, Hong Kong International Jewellery Show, Hong Kong International Machine Tool-Linkage Industry Exhibition, International Travel Expo Hong Kong, Biennial Congress of Asian Surgical Association, Hong Kong International Film Market and the Food Expo. In 1996 alone, 1,940 events took place here (110 large-scale exhibitions, 70 conferences and 1,760 commercial activities, such as presentations, meetings, special programmes and banquets). Approximately two million people (almost one-third of the total local population) are recorded to have attended the events. The centre serves as an invaluable venue for the promotion of trade and exchange of ideas between Hong Kong and the rest of the world. In fact, the centre has won two prestigious awards from the convention industry: one as the Best Overseas Centre and also the CIM Accolade Award for its high standard of facilities and services.

The construction of the extension has been a well anticipated move to cope with the expanding demand for space signalled by the healthy growth of Hong Kong's economy. The design of the extension was being worked on in 1994 when the land reclamation project for the extension's foundation began. The architects racked their brains to find the right, delicate balance between the best use of space and the exterior design that would symbolise Hong Kong's transition and optimism for the future.

The brainchild, now materialised, is an imposing structure of concrete and glass resembling a bird taking off from the shore; it symbolises Hong Kong's striving for ever greater achievement. Instead of competing with its neighbouring buildings for height, the complex takes on a horizontally oriented shape. Simplicity, strength, spaciousness and grandeur are the main features of the extension. The Grand Foyer, for example, affords a 180-degree panoramic view of the city centre of Hong Kong Island and the Victoria Harbour through its tall glass walls. It is undoubtedly the best vantage point from which to witness the kaleidoscopic changes on the face of Hong Kong.

The expanded Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre is destined to be a signature construction of Hong Kong for its location and architectural design, and will reinforce Hong Kong's position as a vital trade centre in Asia.


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A GLIMPSE AT THE THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD CIVILIZATIONS OF CHINA

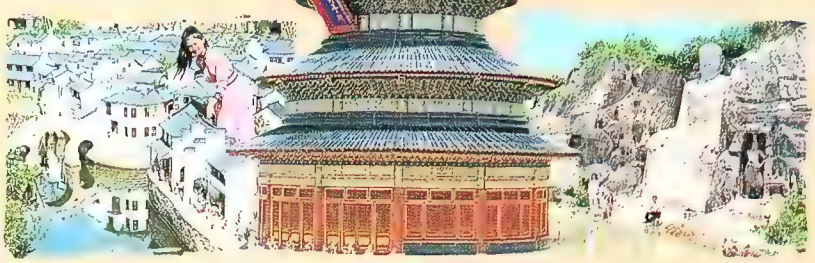
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LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG

Article by Yee Ket Choi

In Hong Kong, one of the world's most famous night cities, night, as well as day, offers many leisure activities for tourists. One may go to an expensive night club or a noisy karaoke bar; or one may go up to the Peak for a splendid night view of the city and the harbour; or ride a tram, or roam the night markets.

A Kaleidoscope of Night Life

The most convenient choice for the traveller to spend his or her leisure time is, of course, in the hotel. Numerous five-star hotels in Hong Kong offer customers a rich night life. Within the hotel, one can frequent facilities such as the bar, cafe, ballroom, swimming pool and gymnasium.

Outside one's hotel, Hong Kong entertains the traveller with a hundred and one recreation activities. It is never a problem to find a karaoke bar, a disco, or a night club in Tsim Sha Tsui, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay, to drink or dance off the day's sorrow or fatigue, and to relax into the early hours of the morning.

Wan Chai is famous for its cluster of adult bars, discos and night clubs. In some old-fashioned bars, such as the Pussycat Lounge and Old China Hand, customers can drink while listening to emotive jazz or playing games. The bars and restaurants of Lan Kwai Fong in Central reveal a different scene. Here the customers are mostly trendy local yuppies and Westerners socialising after work. Special music programmes organised by the Jazz Club and other restaurants in Lan Kwai Fong create a lively artistic atmosphere.

Night-Time Sightseeing

No visitor should miss Hong Kong's night scene. There are three ways to go sightseeing at night: going up to the Peak, a cruise on the harbour and a tram ride. On the Peak, one can view Hong Kong Island, Victoria Harbour and Tsim Sha Tsui dazzling with innumerable lights. To see more of the harbour, one may join a tour aboard a pleasure boat serving as a restaurant as well as a night club. Sailing in Victoria Harbour, the traveller can indulge in delicious Chinese dishes while being captivated by the neon lights surrounding the harbour. There are also acrobatic shows and a live band performing on the boat, as well as a dance floor for enthusiasts.

It costs only HK$1.60 to ride through Hong Kong Island by tram. Starting from Kennedy Town and ending at Shau Kei Wan, the slow tram ride allows ample time to observe the night scenes in the city – shops, restaurants, bars and revellers. For a more deluxe experience your tour group may hire a special tour tram from the tram company. The tram will be brilliantly lit, with an open upper-deck. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided. The tram rental is usually based on hours.



For shopping, the most notable night market is Temple Street in Kowloon. Small stalls line the street, selling all kinds of goods, including clothing, household articles, decorations and toys. One section of the night market is the so called "Common People's Night-club" featuring amateur opera shows. There are also stands set up by fortune-tellers and palm-readers. The most popular section in the street is the *Dai Pai Dong*, where small food stands concentrate. Though the dining tables are not as elegant as those in big restaurants, the food served is often more attractive to diners because of its wide variety and diverse flavours. That is why both locals and tourists flock there — to savour the real local flavour such as stewed pig's feet and oyster omelette, dishes hard to find in conventional restaurants.



Movies and Racing

Hong Kong's more than 100 movie theatres show all kinds of films: features, action pictures, cartoons, comedies, be they from the mainland of China, the United States, Britain, France, Japan, or local Hong Kong studios. Everyone should be able to find a movie to suit their taste.

Travellers looking for a thrill can also go to the horse races which take place on every Wednesday and Saturday except July and August. There, besides trying one's own luck, one can also see the wildly enthusiastic Hong Kong punters in action.

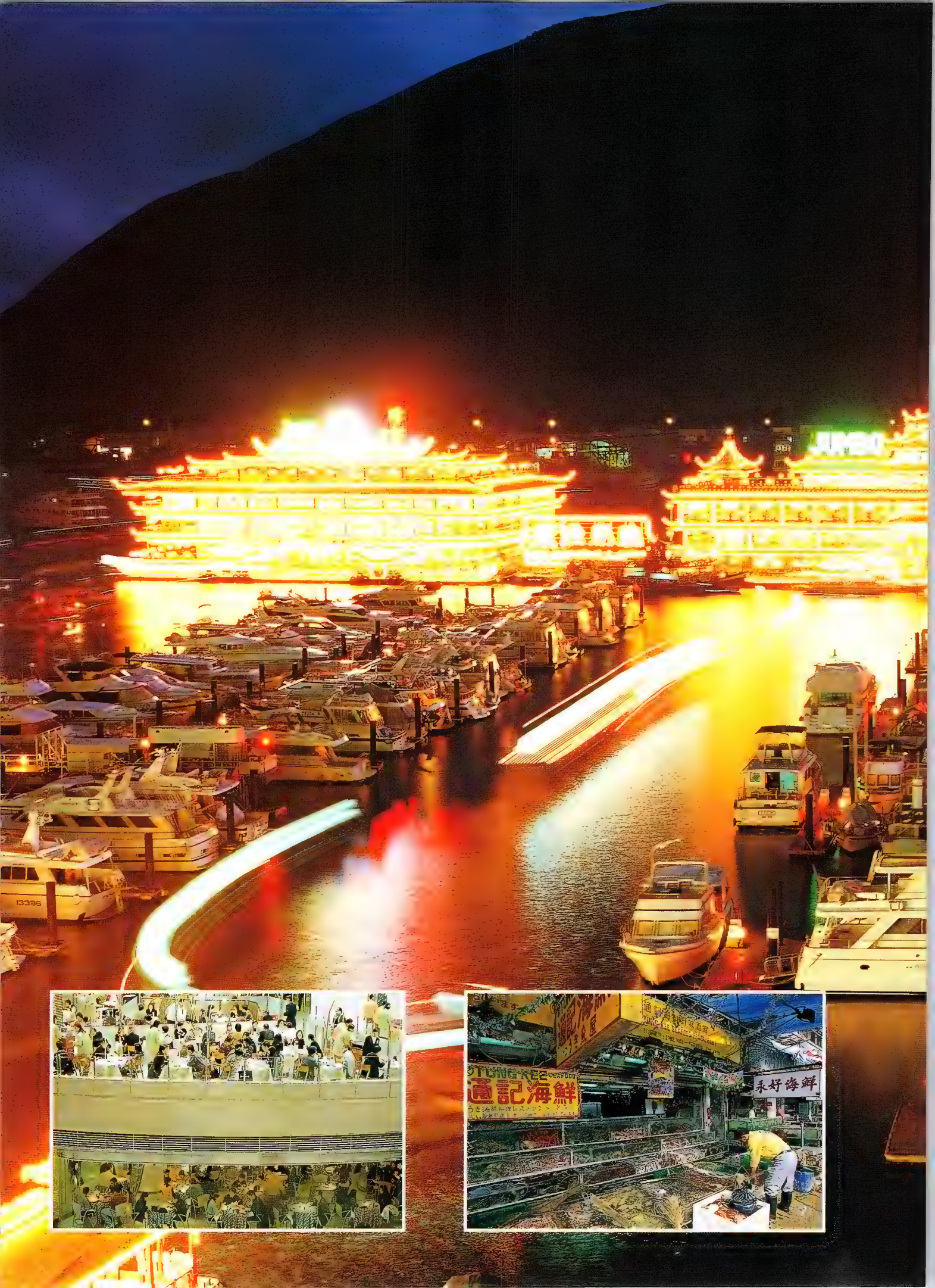




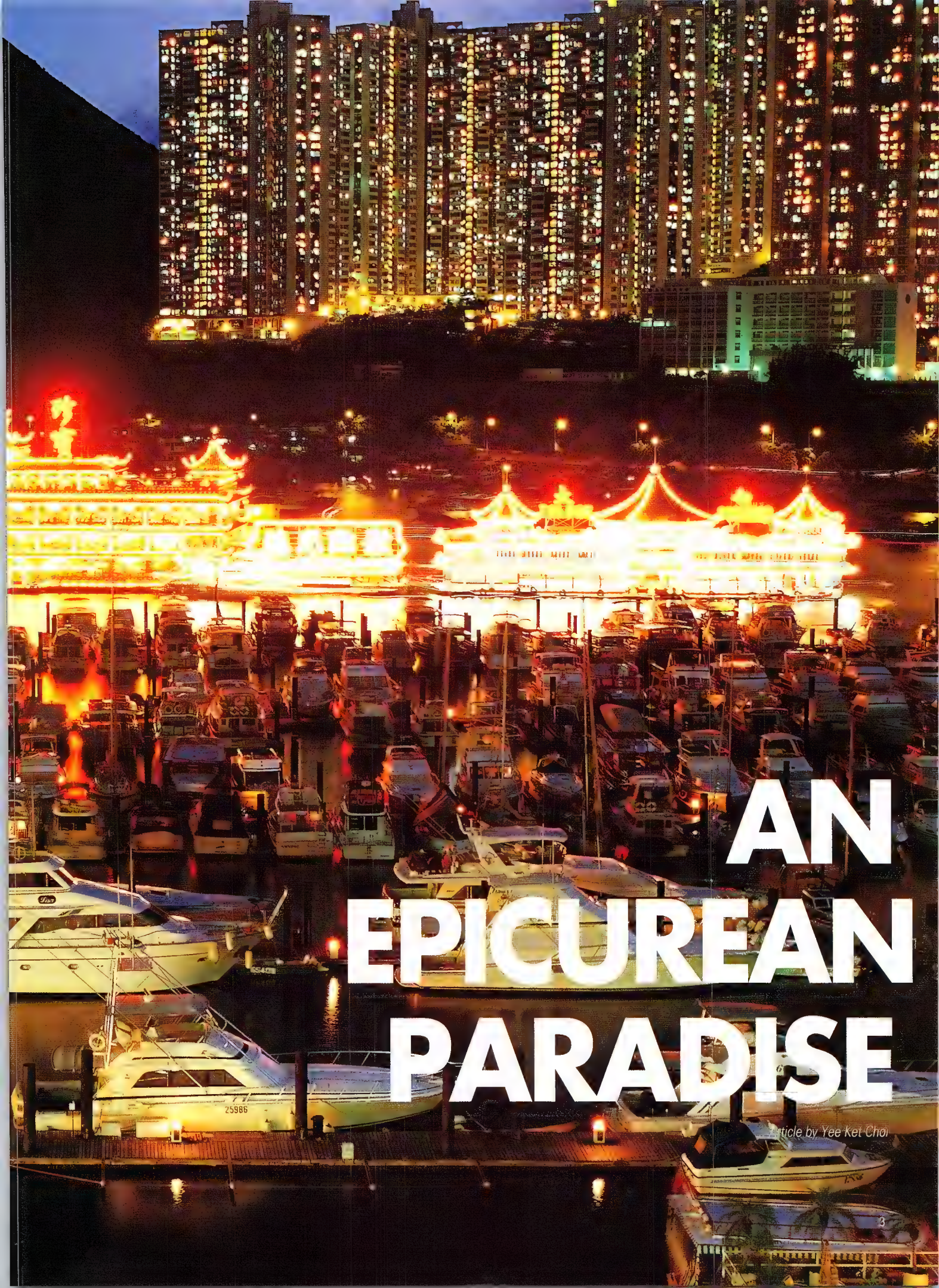


Previous page:
The skating rink in Cityplaza is the biggest of its kind in Hong Kong. (by Chan Yat Nin)

1. The Highly festive mood in Lan Kwai Fong (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. Revelling until dawn (by Xie Guanghui)
3. A free performance at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre (by Shi Baoxiu)
4. A street ablaze with neon signs (by Xie Guanghui)


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AN EPICUREAN PARADISE

Article by Yee Ket Choi



Visitors to Hong Kong come from all parts of the world – but wherever their homeland, whatever food they are accustomed to, the restaurants and eateries in Hong Kong can cater to everyone's taste and budget. There is a dazzling array of restaurants and eateries in Hong Kong, ranging from snacks at roadside food stalls, *dai pai dongs*, to century-old classic dishes served in unassuming surroundings, to authentic Chinese cuisine served in elegantly decorated Chinese restaurants, to restaurants serving European *haute cuisine* with fabulous views across the city or harbour. Even those who have tasted every school, or style, of cuisine can find something here to tempt their palate.

The Four Most Popular Cooking Schools

As more than 90 per cent of Hong Kong's residents hail from neighbouring Guangdong Province, or are immigrants from other regions of China, many have re-created their culinary repertories in Hong Kong's restaurants to specialise in Guangdong, Peking, Chaozhou and Sichuan cuisine – the four most popular schools of cooking. You can also find restaurants serving dishes from Shanghai, Hunan, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, Yunnan, Taiwan and in many other cooking styles.

Cantonese cuisine is known and appreciated for the delicacy of its flavours and the meticulous way in which the chefs prepare the food. Seafood is an all-year-round favourite and freshness is of the utmost importance; other traditional Guangdong dishes are a great variety of rice porridge (congee), wonton, soup noodles and *dim sum* (bite-sized snacks).

Chaozhou cuisine is characterised by its savoury sauces, served with each dish. Stewed goose, for example, is eaten with a garlic and vinegar sauce; steamed lobster with tangerine-peel sauce; fish and rice with Puning bean



sauce. Other famous Chaozhou dishes are: stewed chicken with green pepper, five-flavour fried duck, fried crab balls, and mashed yam. Another dimension to Chaozhou's culinary culture is gongfu tea, (or time-consuming tea) where the tea is served from a miniature pot in a tiny cup, it is not only an interesting way to drink tea but can be considered a form of art. Since people from Chaozhou are customarily late diners, most restaurants in Hong Kong stay open until very late, almost until daybreak.

Peking cuisine makes liberal use of strong flavoured roots and vegetables. The most famous dish is roast Peking Duck. The duck is coated with a rich syrup

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1. During weekend and holidays the restaurants are always full of diners. (by Xie Guanghui)
2. Seafood is particularly favoured by Hong Kong people. (by Huang Yanhong)
3. The floating restaurants at Aberdeen (by Chan Yat Nin)

This page:
1. Many people make a special trip to Chueng Chau to taste seafood there. (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. This self-service cafeteria provides as many as dozens of dishes. (by Chan Yat Nin)
3. Happy Hour in a bar (by Xie Guanghui)
4. Tea-drinking is an important part of the Chinese culinary culture. (by Chan Yat Nin)



3



4

of soy sauce and roasted until its skin is crisp. When ready it is ceremoniously carved and served with thin pancakes, spring onions, leeks, cucumber, and a sweet plum sauce. The rest of the duck is boiled into a soup or stir-fried with bean sprouts. Other well-known dishes include the mutton hot pot, stir-fried chicken with sweet plum sauce, stewed fish in wine sauce, stir-fried beef with spring onion, and banana fritters. Noodles, steamed bread and dumplings are usually eaten in place of rice. Demonstrations of the highly-skilled art of turning a lump of dough into a skein of even-sized noodles is a constant draw for tourists to Peking restaurants.

Sichuan cuisine is distinguished by the clever use of spices so that dishes are unusually spicy (most restaurant menus have symbols alongside each dish to show how hot or spicy it is). Chilli oil, chillies, wild peppers, garlic, peppercorns, star anise, etc. are just some of the seasonings used while the sauces are either hot and sour or sweet and sour. Among the main dishes are bean curd in hot sauce, fish-flavoured sliced pork in hot sauce, spicy chicken and smoked duck, while wonton in chilli oil and multi-flavoured noodles are famous Sichuan snacks.

Most of the fashionable Chinese restaurants are concentrated in Tsim Sha Tsui, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay. The best-known restaurants are: **Guangdong cuisine:** East Lake Seafood Restaurant, Luk Yu Tea House & Restaurant, Yung Kee Restaurant and Heichinrou Restaurant; **Chaozhou cuisine:** Chiuchow Garden Restaurant, Regal Chiuchow Restaurant and Royal Park Chiu Chow Restaurant; **Peking cuisine:** Imperial Kitchen, King Heung Restaurant, Peking Garden Restaurant, Spring Deer Restaurant and Hong Kong Chung Chuk Lau Restaurant; **Sichuan cuisine:** The Red Pepper Restaurant, Sichuan Garden Restaurant, Fung Lum Restaurant Ltd. and Crystal Palace Restaurant.

European and Other Asian Cuisine

As a cosmopolitan city Hong Kong's culinary glory is shared by a bewildering array of cuisine from other parts of Asia, Europe and the Americas. Among Asian cuisine are those of India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Nepal, while Western cuisine includes dishes from France, Italy, Mexico, the United States, Switzerland and Portugal. Highly-trained and creative chefs strive for authenticity of recipes, cooking styles and presentation. Among the better-known Asian restaurants are: **Indian cuisine:** Koh-I-Noor Indian Restaurant, Bukhara Tandoori Restaurant; **Indonesian cuisine:** Java Rijsttafel Restaurant and Cinta Restaurant & Lounge; **Japanese cuisine:** Sui Sha Ya Japanese Restaurant and Restaurant Nagoya; **Korean cuisine:** Arirang Korean Restaurant; and Chaophraya Thai Restaurant of Thai cuisine.

For the less adventurous diner, most hotels contain at least one good Western restaurant. A wide variety of Western restaurants can also be found in or around the usual tourist areas. In addition to the many restaurants, self-service cafeterias are also very popular in Hong Kong. Most of the better hotels put on good-value lunch and dinner buffets offering a chance to sample new or unfamiliar cuisine.

The floating restaurants at Aberdeen offers a new dining experience. In the large dining hall of the Jumbo Restaurant, diners can marvel at the ornate Chinese decor and the city lights of Aberdeen.

In the early evening, mobile food stands appear on the streets. And, of course, the ubiquitous McDonalds and Hardee's can be found everywhere.



President
Wu Ji De

Shanxi International Countertrade Corporation is a state-run enterprise approved by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade of the People's Republic of China. It specializes in import & export trade, International Countertrade, import & export with Taiwan, developing barter trade & spot exchange business with Union of Independent Nations and other eastern European countries, undertaking processing with supplied materials and processing according to imported samples, assembling with supplied parts and compensation trade, undertaking contracting business, cooperationg in the field of labour service. It exports various commodities including metals & minerals, chemicals, light industrial products, knitwear & woven products, arts & crafts, cereals & oils, native products & animal-by products, medicals & healthing products, machinery, electronics etc.

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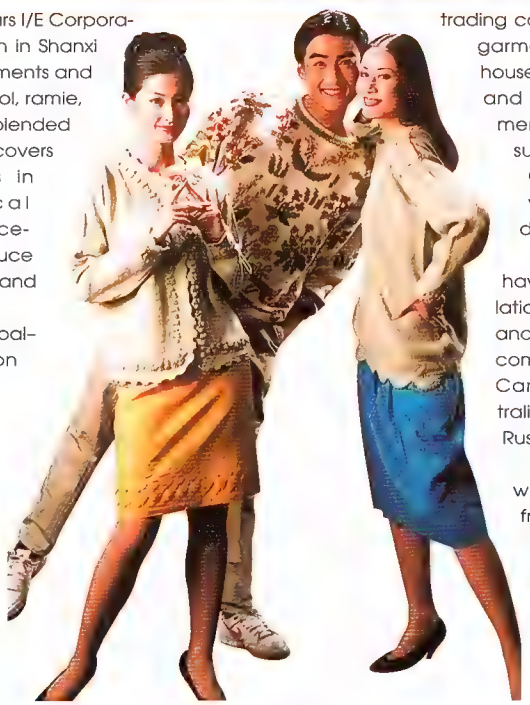
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SHOPPERS' PARADISE

Article by Yee Ket Choi



In terms of value, variety, facilities and service, Hong Kong offers some of he best shopping in the world. Few people could manage to stay but not be empted to buy something in Hong Kong, the Shoppers' Paradise. Opportunities to spend money abound at every street corner, both day and ight, every day of the year and especially during the Summer Sales in July and August when prices for electronic goods, brand name clothes, leather handbags nd shoes are drastically reduced.

Not all Hong Kong's shopping is to be found in the main street arcades, lthough, of course, much of it is. Some of the "alternative" shopping venues ffering some amazingly good value items are hidden in down side alleys or ucked away in street markets in all sorts of unlikely corners.

Stores selling leading designer brand names such as Christian Dior, Chanel, Gucci, Lanvin, Moschino and Armani are generally to be found in the smarter hopping malls and arcades in Central District, Causeway Bay, and Tsim Sha sui, while at the less expensive end of the market catering to the younger eople are the chain stores such as Bossini, G2000, U2 and Giordano.

Bargain hunters head for the Ladies' Market in Fa Yuen Street and Temple treet in Kowloon, or Li Yuen Street in Central District where there are plenty of ow-priced bargains awaiting. In Stanley Market, on the southside of the island, pen-fronted shops sell silk dresses, rattan furniture, shoes, porcelain ware, rass, handbags, children's clothes, toys, linen and gift items. Wholesale shops n Granville Road and Mody Road in Tsim Sha Tsui, as well as at Stanley Market ell factory extras and flawed garments. Perfumes and cosmetics, which are all uty free, are sold in shops in Central, Causeway Bay and Tsim Sha Tsui.

Major items in the sophisticated world of photography equipment and audio, visual, sound and screen systems are available in abundance in Hong Kong — shops selling these types of products always enjoy brisk business and can be found in Tsim Sha Tsui and Causeway Bay.

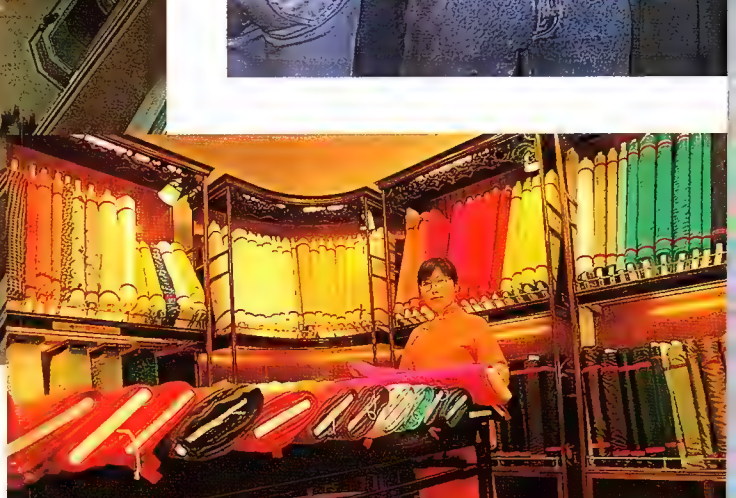
Hong Kong boasts more jewellery shops per square kilometre than any other city in the world — Hong Kong is the world's third largest diamond trading centre and prices are often lower than world market levels. Jade and jewellery sold in Hong Kong are reputed for their design and craftsmanship, and coupled with their reasonable price they make a popular purchase with tourists. Most jewellery and gold shops are concentrated in Mong Kok, Central and Causeway Bay but if you want to be confident of getting a fair price, shop at the famous jewellery shops within Pacific Place and The Landmark in Central. Jade can be found in the larger jewellery shops, however, the more adventurous shopper can bargain at the jade market at the junction of Kansu Street and Battery Street in Yau Ma Tei. Prices for jade varies for each piece depending on its size and quality and can range from one or two dollars to several thousand dollars.

It is said that there isn't a brand or style of watch that can't be bought in Hong Kong. Certainly the choice is vast and the prices very competitive, ranging from those studded with diamonds to those bearing cartoon characters. You also have a wide choice of designs ranging from trendy to elegant to be found in the watch chain stores all over Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories. At the open-air markets in the Ladies' Street and Temple Street, a watch can cost as little as HK$50.

1. Department stores draw shoppers like magnets during sale. (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. Pacific Place in Admiralty, a high-class shopping mall. (by Chan Yat Nin)







Chinese department stores are the ideal places to shop for traditional Chinese furniture, local handicrafts, silks, embroideries, gift items, curios, jade, etc. — things sold through these stores are produced in the People's Republic of China. Emporiums can be found in Nathan Road, Mody Road and the Park Lane Shopping Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui, and in Stanley Market on Hong Kong Island.

Having made up your mind up of what you want to buy, here is some general information of where to buy the particular item you are looking for. Ladies Street: jeans, low-priced clocks and watches and casual clothing; Temple Street: second-hand electronic goods and electrical appliances, Nepalese accessories, audio cassettes and bargain-priced suits; Lascar Row: curios, calligraphy scrolls, ceramics, pottery, stamps and coins; Stanley Market: traditional Chinese clothes, brocade, export garments and carved Chinese seals; Park Lane: European brand name leather goods and the latest fashion designs; Western Market: fabrics, curios, memorabilia; Emporiums in Causeway Bay: brand name fashion designs and sundry Japanese items; Mody Road: washed silk garments; Sai Yeung Choi Street in Mong Kok: audio and video equipment; Fa Yuen Street: sports gear.

All the major shopping centres such as Pacific Place in Admiralty, Times









Square in Causeway Bay, Cityplaza in Taikoo Shing, The Landmark in Central, The Prudential Centre in Jordan, Grand Tower in Mong Kok, and Park Lane Shopping Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui are within easy reach of the Mass Transit Railway system.

Shoppers can buy everything from curios to designer clothing in Hong Kong — clearly the city deserves its sobriquet: Shoppers' Paradise.

1. Times Square, one of the large shopping arcades in Causeway Bay (by Xie Guanghui)
2. Shanghai Tang in Central sells quality silk and traditional Chinese clothes. (by Chan Yat Nin)
3. At the night market on Chinese New Year's Eve, prices go down as the dawn draws nearer. (by Wong Kin Man)
4. Shops selling Chinese goods are popular tourist shopping places. (by Xie Guanghui)
5. Upper Lascar Row offers antique and curio treasures to buyers. (by Chan Yat Nin)
6. Stylishly decorated shop windows (by Shi Baoxiu)

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Hong Kong is a place where wonders never cease. The city's energetic outlook, wide choice of entertainment and cultural activities, as well as its colourful scenic spots and rich heritage have long made it the most popular tourist destination in Asia. Briefly introduced here are some of Hong Kong's tourist highlights.

Hong Kong Island

Central: This district is the commercial and economic powerhouse of the territory. Clusters of glittering, skyscrapers are concentrated here amidst luxury hotels and designer shops. Reminders of Hong Kong's colonial past lie hidden behind the futuristic high-rises, while time-honoured streets and pavements lined with small shops and stalls provide a charming contrast to the modern facade. The most distinctive buildings here are the Bank of China Tower, Central Plaza, and Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Building. Just in front, is Statue Square containing the late-Victorian colonial architecture which is home to the Legislative Council.

Victoria Peak: Also known as "The Peak", it is one of Hong Kong's most famous scenic spots. A short, steep tram ride from Garden Road in Central is an interesting way to get to the top. On a clear day it is possible to have a panoramic view down to Victoria Harbour and across to Kowloon. Even more breathtaking views can be seen at night when Hong Kong seems to come alive beneath a tapestry of colourful lights. The Peak Tower incorporating the tram terminus, is a newly-completed nine storey entertainment and shopping complex complete with several viewing terraces. Opposite is the Peak Galleria offering three levels of shops, restaurants, and recreational facilities. If one has more time, there are several walking routes encircling the Peak.



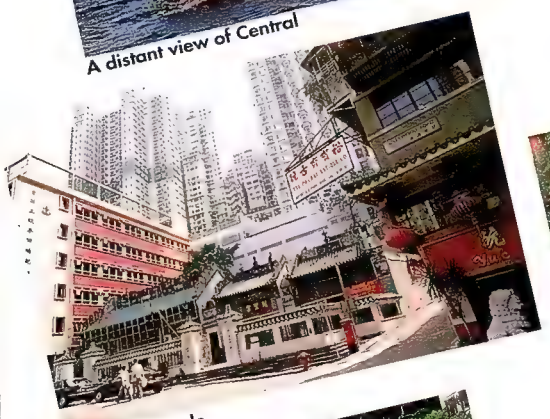
A distant view of Central

Bank of China Tower: This 315-metre-tall, 70-storey building was designed by the famous American-Chinese architect Ieoh Ming Pei and is home to a number of large enterprises who have their offices here.

Hong Kong Park: Facilities in this 10-hectare park include the largest weather-conditioned green house in Southeast Asia housing more than 2000 rare species of plants; an aviary containing more than 100 kinds of rare birds; a Museum of Tea Ware displaying carvings, pottery, ceramics, porcelains and gold teapots. The Park is situated next to Hong Kong's Zoological and Botanical Gardens, and can be reached from Admiralty MTR Station via Pacific Place shopping centre.

Lan Kwai Fong: Set between D'Aguilar Street and Wyndham Street, Lan Kwai Fong is lined with bars and restaurants and is the "in place" frequented by trendy locals and Westerners.

Man Mo Temple: Located on the corner of Hollywood Road and Ladder Street in Sheung Wan, this traditional Chinese temple was built in the mid-19th Century in dedication to the god of literature (Mun Cheong) and the martial god (Kwan Kung). A bookstall inside the temple sells books in Chinese and English to decipher the Chinese fortune telling codes. The antique markets along Hollywood Road and nearby Lascar Row are also worth a visit.



Man Mo Temple



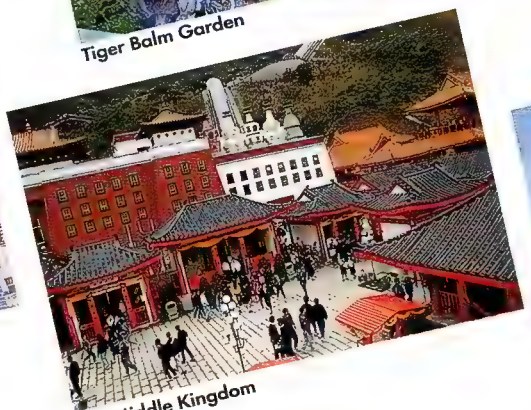
Tiger Balm Garden

Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens: Completed in 1864, the gardens feature a Victorian-style park with a large collection of rare plants and animals (flamingos, jaguars, clouded leopards and orang-utans).

Central Plaza: This 374-metre-tall, 78-storey commercial building is the second-tallest building in Asia. A fine example of grandeur and pomposity, it has a European-style lobby and a peaceful garden at its main entrance. The building is situated in



The Repulse Tower at Repulse Bay



The Middle Kingdom



Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Harbour Road adjacent to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, and the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Repulse Bay: This long, sandy beach is popular with tourists and locals alike. At one end of the beach is a Chinese garden housing the statues of both the Goddess of the Sea and the Goddess of mercy. Neighbouring Deep Water Bay, Middle Bay and South Bay are also favoured by swimmers.

Ocean Park: This amusement park is the largest of its kind in Southeast Asia. Cable cars and one of the worlds' longest escalators serve as means of transport up the mountain on which the park is built. Dolphin and killer whale performances in the Ocean Theatre are one of the highlights along with a shark aquarium, the Atoll Reef (the largest reef aquarium in the world), Dinosaur Discovery Trail, Kid's World and Water World. The Middle Kingdom, also within the Ocean Park, demonstrates lives in China's 13 ancient dynasties where you can journey through 5,000 years of Chinese history.

Western Market: This red-bricked Edwardian-style building was originally built in 1858 as a produce market, and renovated in 1991. Today, it is home to a variety of shops selling art pieces, Chinese handicrafts, textiles, curiosities and classical European wristwatches.

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre: Located on Harbour Road in Wan Chai, this complex opened in November 1988. Housed inside the centre are two large exhibition halls, a state-of-the-art convention hall, two lecture theatres, 26 meeting rooms, restaurants, cafes and offices. The extension of the complex will host the ceremony marking the return of Hong Kong to China on June 30, 1997.

Causeway Bay: A popular local commercial district crowded with numerous Japanese emporiums, modern shopping arcades, as well as open air markets and temples. The most popular shopping areas are Paterson Street, Great George Street and Yee Wo Street. Among the most popular shopping malls are Times Square, Caroline Centre, Lee Theatre Plaza, World Trade Centre and.In Square.

Victoria Park: This spacious park is very popular with the locals. Olympic-sized swimming pools, tennis courts and football pitches inside the Park are built to international standard. In the early mornings joggers can be seen running through the park and others doing their tai chi exercises. During festivals the park is the venue for one of the largest Chinese New Year flower fairs and is also a popular place for families to admire the moon during the Moon Festival.

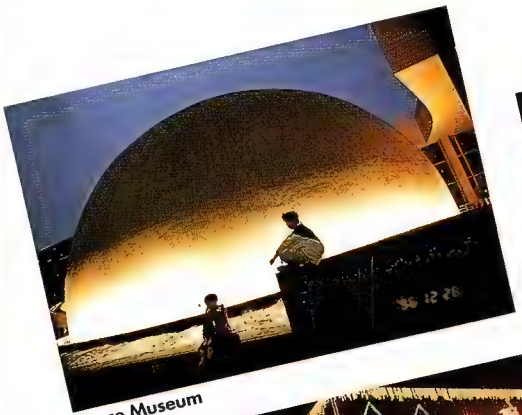
Tiger Balm Garden: A private property belonging to the Brothers Aw, the founders of the famous "Tiger Balm" ointment. At the centre of the garden is the beautiful 145- metre-high, 7-storey white pagoda. The garden also contains a collection of grottoes and pavilions with sculptures of deities and fairies from Chinese myths.

Kowloon

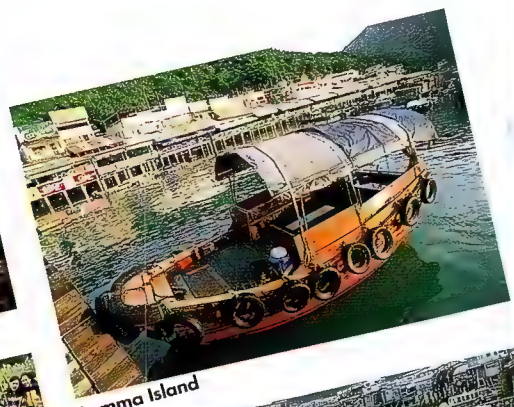
Tsim Sha Tsui East Promenade: This waterfront promenade stretches from the New World Centre shopping mall to Hung Hom and provides stunning views of the constantly busy Victoria Harbour and across the bay on the Hong Kong Island.

Hong Kong Space Museum: This dome-shaped museum houses one of the most technically advanced planetariums in the world. Its Omnimax theatre features regular sky shows, simultaneously translated in several languages through free headsets. There are also exhibits on astronomy and space sciences.

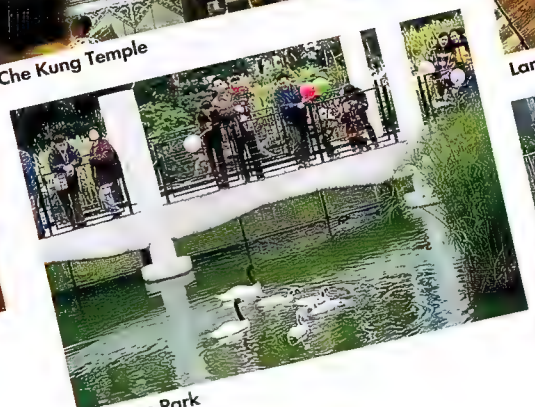
Hong Kong Cultural Centre: The cultural centre includes a Concert Hall, a Grand Theatre and a Studio Theatre as well as a restaurant and bar. World-famous shows such as *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Miserables* have been performed here. Forming part of the complex is the Hong Kong Museum of Art where classic and contemporary, as well as eastern and western art pieces are displayed.


Space Museum


Che Kung Temple


Lamma Island


Festive Light at Tsim Sha Tsui


Kowloon Park


Tai O, a fishing village

Clock Tower: Located on the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront, this elegant Clock Tower was built in 1916 and is all that remains of the original Kowloon-Canton Railway Terminus. The 45-metre-tall structure has long been the symbol of Kowloon.

Kowloon Park: The 14-hectare park in the middle of busy Tsim Sha Tsui is a haven for anyone wishing to take a break from the hustle-bustle of the city. The design of the park is a blend of art and nature. It contains an aviary, an artificial bird lake, a Chinese garden and an Olympic-sized heated swimming pool. The park is also dotted with sculptures and Chinese rocks.

Hong Kong Museum: Located inside Kowloon Park, this museum presents a permanent exhibition charting Hong Kong's history. Incorporating archaeological finds, photographic archives, artefacts, maps and reconstruction of ancient architectures, it vividly recounts "The Story of Hong Kong".

Kowloon Mosque: This magnificent Islamic mosque is the largest and the most important of its kind in Hong Kong. It adds a shade of spiritualism to the otherwise commercial district of Tsim Sha Tsui. Guided tours can be arranged by prior appointment.

Hong Kong Science Museum: This museum complex houses 500 interesting exhibits (60 per cent of which are "hands-on" exhibits) offering insight into various areas of science and technology. The most imposing of all the exhibits is the 20-metre-high Energy Machine which, when activated, triggers a series of displays, producing spectacular audio-visual effects demonstrating various forms of energy.

Hong Kong Coliseum: Located in Hung Hom, this structure resembles an inverted pyramid. It is the largest venue of its kind in Hong Kong with a seating capacity of 12,500. Suspended from the roof are gigantic screens that afford a clear view of the stage to large audiences. This arena has been the venue for sports events, concerts, and large-scale art performances and exhibitions.

Temple Street Night Market: Every evening after 7:00 p.m., this street in Yau Ma Tei comes alive as a bustling night market as hundreds of stalls holders set up to display a wide variety of inexpensive products including clothes, clocks, watches, curios, imitation antiques, trendy gadgets, etc. Fortune-tellers and pavement artists well-versed in Cantonese opera add a colourful atmosphere to the street scene.

Ladies' Market: Officially known as Tong Choi Street, Ladies' Market is famed for its daytime open air market selling women's clothes, shoes and accessories.

Wong Tai Sin Temple: Wong Tai Sin Temple is visited by more than 3 million worshippers annually, and no other temple in Hong Kong affords visitors such a full range of insights into Chinese religious beliefs and practices. Interpretation of the fortune sticks, by which one's fortune is told, is available through fortune tellers around the temple. An exquisite Chinese garden is built beside the temple, which, apart from other things, houses the Nine-Dragon Screen Wall, a replica of the one in Beijing.

Kowloon Walled City Park: Opened on the site of the historic Kowloon Walled City is Kowloon Walled City Park where some of the former architecture is preserved. The park layout is of a classical Southern Chinese-style garden.

Lei Yue Mun: Situated east of Kwun Tong in Kowloon, Lei Yue Mun used to be a fishing village. However, today it is a paradise for seafood lovers. You may choose from a variety of fish and seafood offered at the many fish monger stalls and then take it to any one of the nearby restaurants to be cooked just the way you like.

The New Territories and Outlying Islands

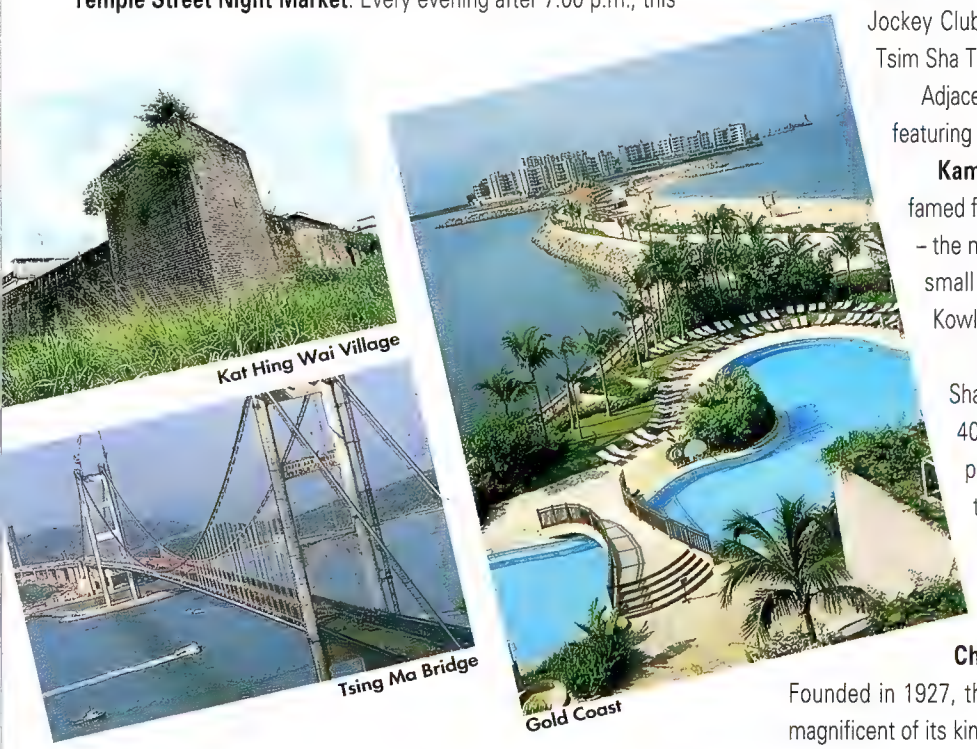
Sha Tin Racecourse and Penfold Park: Equipped with the state-of-the-art technology Sha Tin Racecourse is situated next to the Fo Tan KCR station. During the racing season (September to June) events take place here on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. Tourists can gain admittance to the Member's enclosure at the track by obtaining a special pass from the Hong Kong Jockey Club located at the Star Ferry Pier, Central or Prat Avenue, Tsim Sha Tsui.

Adjacent to the racecourse is Penfold Park, an eight-hectare park featuring an artificial lake, fountains, a bird sanctuary and park land.

Kam Shan Country Park : East of Tsuen Wan, this park is famed for its inhabitants – bands of long-tailed macaque monkeys – the monkeys can be aggressive so do not feed them and keep small children away. To the south of the park are the small Kowloon Reservoirs.

Ten Thousand-Buddha Monastery: A major attraction in Sha Tin, this monastery sits on a hillside reached by climbing 400 steps. Close to 13,000 images of Buddha in various poses are enshrined on shelves in the walls of the main temple. Farther up the hillside behind the main temple are four other temples – the temple on the far right houses the well-preserved body of Monk Yuet Kai, founder of the monastery.

Chuk Lam Shim Yuen (Bamboo Forest Monastery): Founded in 1927, the Buddhist monastery is one of the largest and most magnificent of its kind in Hong Kong. The monastery houses the giant statues



of Triratna Buddha and the statue of Four-Faced Buddha from Thailand. Built in the temple are rocks, fish ponds, pagodas and a cave for the Goddess of Mercy.

Yuen Yuen Institute : Located in Lo Wai Village, Tsuen Wan, this is a large temple complex dedicated to Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. Its main building is modelled on the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. Vegetarian food is available.

Hong Kong Railway Museum: This museum, transformed from an old railway station at Tai Po Market, was built with traditional Chinese architectural designs. The whole setting of the station is well-preserved and old photographs illustrate both histories of Tai Po and the railway system in Hong Kong. Various carriages, in service since 1911, line the platform. Visitors are allowed to walk through an imitation carriage.

Tai Mo Shan Country Park: Surrounding the 957-metre-high Mt. Tai Mo, this country park in Tsuen Wan is a favourite place for hikers. On one's way up the mountain and at the peak, there are stunning views of the New Territories' north-western plains and the coastline of Deep Bay.

Tsing Shan Shim Yuen (Mt. Tsing Shan Monastery): Located in Tuen Mun on the western hillside of Mt. Tsing Shan and built during the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420), the monastery is one of the three greatest ancient temples in Hong Kong. Pavilions along the path leading up the hill afford pleasant views of mountain scenery.

Ching Chung Koon (Green Pine Taoist Temple): Built in 1949, the famous Taoist temple was modelled on renowned Taoist institutes in China. The temple's layout is splendidly decorated with pavilions, lotus ponds and a fine collection of miniature landscapes. Vegetarian meals are available.

Fung Ying Sin Koon (Fung Ying Sin Taoist Temple): Located near the Fanling KCR station, the temple is famed for its magnificent traditional Chinese architecture and garden. Vegetarian meals are available.

Po Lin Monastery: Built in 1924 on the 520-metre high Ngong Ping Plateau on Lantau Island, this grand monastery is the major centre of Buddhism in Hong Kong. Enshrined in the main temple are three statues representing the previous, current and future life of Buddha as well as several Buddhist scriptures. Vegetarian food and overnight accommodation are available.

Further enhancing the monastery's fame is the 34-metre-tall, 250-ton Giant Buddha, the world's largest seated outdoor bronze Buddha, which opened to the public in 1993.

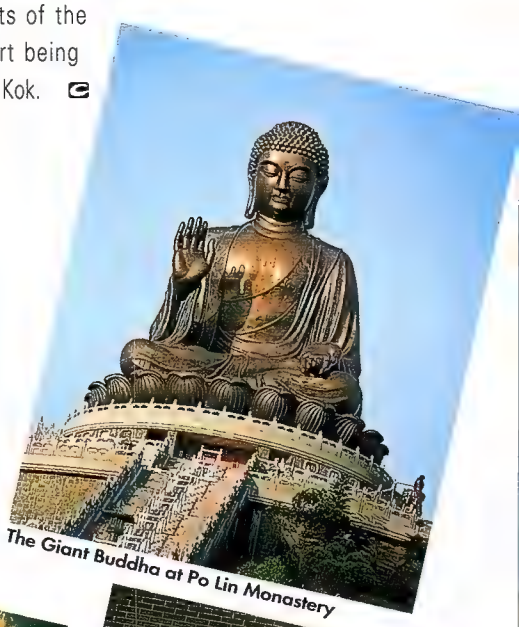
Tin Hau Temple at Joss House Bay: This temple is the oldest in Hong Kong. Originally built in 1012 on Tung Lung Chau, it was destroyed by a typhoon and later reconstructed on its present site in 1266. The birth of Tin Hau is celebrated here on the 23rd day of the third lunar month when hundreds of boats sail to the temple to celebrate the occasion.

Tai O Village: The fishing village on Lantau Island is criss-crossed with narrow canals, dubbed Hong Kong's "Little Venice". Small boats and sampans are the important means of transport here. Local specialities are salted fish and shrimp paste. A demarcation stone erected in 1902 marking the boundary of the New Territories makes it a historical site. The area also abounds in temples.

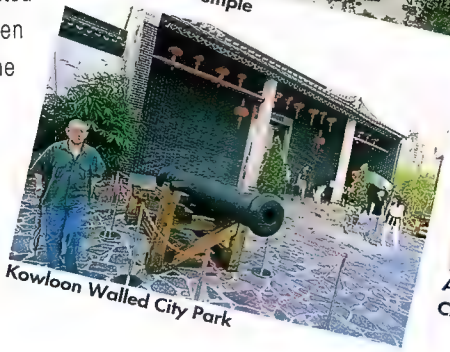
Cheung Chau (Long Island): Cheung Chau is the most populated outlying island with 40,000 inhabitants. The island is famed for its delicious seafood, scenic and historical spots and the locals' colourful customs. Places of interest are Tung Wan Beach, Pak Tai Temple and Cheung Po Tsai (a famous and notorious pirate) Cave. A colourful parade is held every year in which children and young people dress up as Chinese folklore and historical characters.

Lamma Island: The second largest outlying island in Hong Kong. The relics unearthed here show evidence of human settlement dating back several thousand years. Today, sea produce farming is the mainstay of the island's economy. It is an ideal place to go fishing and swim. Yung Shue Wan, Hung Shing Ye Wan, Lo Tik Wan and Sham Wan are also pleasant beaches.

Tsing Ma Bridge: The 2,160-metre-long Tsing Ma Bridge is the world's longest suspension bridge for both railway and highway. Linking Tsing Yi and Ma Wan isles to Lantau Island, it is one of the key projects of the Hong Kong new airport being constructed in Chek Lap Kok.


The Giant Buddha at Po Lin Monastery


Wong Tai Sin Temple


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Geographic Profile

Situated on the east of the Pearl River estuary, on the south coast of China, Hong Kong shares its border with Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province. The region of Hong Kong covers Hong Kong Island, the Kowloon Peninsula, The New Territories and 235 outlying islands totalling 1,093.34 square kilometres. Separating Kowloon Peninsula and Hong Kong Island is the deep Victoria Harbour, which stands alongside San Francisco in the United States of America and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil as one of the three greatest natural (and busiest) ports in the world.

The 78-square-kilometre island of Hong Kong is linked to the Kowloon Peninsula by five cross harbour tunnels: three for road transport use, the other two for the Mass Transit Railway system.

Hong Kong Island is mainly a hilly island with most of the population and commerce concentrated on its north. The financial and commercial hub of the Hong Kong territory is situated in the Central District. Just behind, further up the mountain is a luxury residential district called Mid-Levels, much favoured by young expatriates. The south side of the island is more rugged and contains a number of nice beaches.

Across Victoria Harbour is the Kowloon Peninsula where the land is much flatter. The eastern and western parts of the peninsula contain densely populated industrial areas, while the northern part is mainly residential. The southern tip extending into the harbour is a busy commercial district best represented by Tsim Sha Tsui and Mong Kok which are much favoured by shoppers. Kowloon is also a traffic hub that connects a network of routes from Hong Kong to other parts of China and foreign countries – Kai Tak Airport, container terminal, main railway stations and China Hong Kong Ferry Pier are all located on the peninsula.

The New Territories accounts for 92% of the total area of the administrative region of Hong Kong. Developed towns such as Tsuen Wan, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, Tai Po, Yuen Long, Fanling, Sheung Shui, Tseung Kwan O and Tin Shui Wai are distributed over the area. The rest of The New Territories, including the outlying islands, consist of rural areas, and country parks.

People and Language

The total population at June 30, 1996 was 6.31 million of which 98% is native Chinese (more than half born in Hong Kong). Of the Chinese population, the majority can trace their origin back to the coastal cities and counties of Guangdong Province such as Nanhai, Panyu, Chaozhou, Haifeng and Shunde while the rest are from other provinces or cities such as Fujian, Guangxi, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shanghai. The remaining 2% non-Chinese are from Britain, the United States of America, European countries, India and Pakistan.

Cantonese, a major dialect of Chinese, is used in daily conversation. But the Cantonese spoken in Hong Kong is somewhat different from that spoken on the mainland – some expressions and vocabularies have been shaped by or born of the local culture and life style unique to Hong Kong. Moreover, it is very common to find English words and phrases mingled in with Cantonese. English, as one of the official languages, is a compulsory subject in schools and so many young people can speak English in varying degrees. In recent years, Mandarin (the official language in China) has emerged as a popular language to learn – quite a number of people can handle simple daily conversations in the language.

Customs

Visitors into the territory are allowed to bring in, duty free, 200 cigarettes together with 1 litre of alcohol.

The visitor is not allowed to overstay his/her visa. If she/he leaves by plane, she/he is required to register with the airline and pay HK$100 for departure tax.

Currency Exchange

Hong Kong currency is dollar and cent. Notes are issued by the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Standard Chartered Bank and the Bank of China, and come in denominations of $1000, $500, $100, $50 and $20 ($10 notes are no longer printed but are still in circulation). Coins come in silver as $10, $5, $2, $1 and bronze as 50¢, 20¢ and 10¢.



In the mid-80s, the Hong Kong Government pegged the Hong Kong dollar to the US dollar at an exchange rate of US$1 to HK$7.8. The exchange rate between the Hong Kong dollars and other foreign currencies are generally based on this rate.

Telecommunications

Public telephone booths cost $1. From Hong Kong you can make calls or send telegrams all over the world. Long distance phone calls can be made at telephone booths with a phone card or coins. Emergency calls are free on 999 as are telephone directory enquiries (1081 for English and 1083 for Chinese). Local telephone calls inside shops and restaurants are normally free.



Transport



Transportation in Hong Kong is well-developed, efficient and inexpensive, making it easy to get around. The main means of transport are Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR), Mass Transit Railway (MTR), bus, mini-bus, tram, taxi and ferry.

The Kowloon-Canton Railway is the traffic artery between Kowloon, The New Territories and Guangzhou spanning 34 kilometres. The train service between the 11 stations is, on average, every 3 to 10 minutes. Tickets can be bought from vending machines or ticket counters at any of the stations. Both single and return tickets are available. The stored value tickets used by the Mass Transit Railway are also valid on the KCR (except Lo Wu).

The 43.2-kilometre Mass Transit Railway system (MTR 港鐵) is fast, efficient, clean and inexpensive. Its three lines cover Hong Kong island, Kowloon and The New Territories: the red line runs in west Kowloon, the green line connects south and east Kowloon with the eastern part of Hong Kong Island; and the blue line runs from east to west on the northern part of the Hong Kong Island. It operates from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily and arrive every 2 to 4 minutes. Single journey and stored value tickets can be bought from the easy-to-use electronic vending machines. Stored value tickets are sold at ticket counters within each station for $70, $100 and $200. Tourists can also buy a souvenir ticket for $20 upon production of their passport.

Light Railway Transit is one of the world's most sophisticated urban transport systems linking the New Territories towns of Tuen Mun and Yuen Long. It operates daily between 5:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. (depending on the route) on weekdays and 6:00 a.m. to midnight on Sundays and public holidays. There are ticket vending machines at each stop but no turnstiles, an "honour" system is employed.

The trams have been serving Hong Kong Island for 90 years and are a symbol of the old Hong Kong. They run along the north side of the island between Kennedy Town in the west and Shau Kei Wan in the east. A tram ride is an excellent way of sightseeing and experiencing everyday life in Hong Kong. They operate between 6:00 a.m. to 1 a.m. and often get very crowded during the rush hours. The fare is $1.6 for adults and 80¢ for children and the senior citizens regardless of the distance travelled. Pay the exact fare when leaving into the small box by the driver's seat.

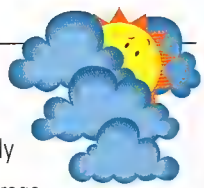
Buses cover most parts of the territory and operate daily from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a few exceptions. Pay exact fare on entering the bus.

Minibuses fill the niche left by the buses. These vans (yellow with a red stripe) pick up passengers (provided there are seats) and let them get off anywhere along a designated route except at bus stops and in restricted areas. A sign in front shows their final destination. Call out to the driver when you want to get off. Pay when leaving, change is given. Maxicabs are yellow with a green stripe and run specific routes. Pay exact fare as you get on.

Taxis are abundant and reasonably inexpensive compared to those in other major cities. Flag fall price is HK$14.50. Designated taxis ranks can be found outside most major hotels. Some taxi drivers speak English.

The Star Ferries operating between Tsim Sha Tsui and Central as well as Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai offer the best-value boat tour in Hong Kong. Ferries also operate between Central and Whampoa Garden, Hung Hom (on the Kowloon Peninsula); and Central (just west of the Star Ferry) to places in The New Territories and the outlying islands, including Lantau Island.

Climate



Hong Kong has a subtropical climate making summers hot and humid, and winters warm and dry. The average daily temperature ranges from 28.6°C in July (humidity rising to 90%) to 15.6°C in January. The average daily temperature is 22.5°C. The rainy season spans from April to September when the rainfall accounts for 86% of the annual total (2,224.7 mm). Typhoons usually hit Hong Kong between July and September, while cold air currents arrive from the north in winter and spring.

Travel Document



All visitors must have a valid passport. Citizens of some countries are permitted visa-free visit between one to three months. According to the laws of Hong Kong, everyone must carry valid identification documents wherever they go in Hong Kong. The police have the right to stop anyone to carry out a check. Failure to comply may lead to fines or even deportation in the case of possessing no valid identification document.

Emergency Services



In the case of accidents, robbery, fire, injuries or serious illness, call 999 free from any public telephone. Alternatively, request help from the nearest policemen or at the nearest police station. English-speaking policemen wear a red flash underneath their shoulder number.

If you are in need of emergency medical care, take a taxi to the nearest hospital. The following is a list of hospitals.

Hong Kong Island:
Tang Shiu Kin Hospital (Hong Kong East) Tel: 2831 6800
Eastern District Hospital (Chai Wan) Tel: 2595 6111
Queen Mary Hospital (Hong Kong West) Tel: 2855 3838

Kowloon:
Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Kowloon East) Tel: 2958 8888
Kwong Wah Hospital (Kowloon Central) Tel: 2332 2311
Margaret Hospital (Kowloon West) Tel: 2990 1111

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Tuen Mun Hospital Tel: 2468 5111

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2. Ninepin Group
3. Po Toi Island: strangly-shaped rocks
4. Pak Tai Temple on Cheung Chau
5. Po Lin Monastery and the Giant Buddha
6. Ancient fortress in Tung Chung
7. Cheung Sha Beach
8. Tai O Fishing Village
9. Gold Coast
10. Tsing Ma Bridge
11. Hong Kong Park
    Museum of Tea Ware
    Visual Art Centre
12. Peak Trail
13. Police Museum
14. Ocean Park, Middle Kingdom
15. Repulse Bay Beach
16. Stanley: market and cafes
17. Happy Valley Racecourse
18. HK Convention and Exhibition Centre
19. HK Art Centre
20. HK Cultural Centre
    HK Space Museum
    HK Museum of Art
21. Kowloon Park
    Hong Kong Museum
22. Temple Street night market
23. Wong Tai Sin Temple
24. Sha Tin Racecourse
25. Hong Kong Railway Museum
26. Coastal scenery in Sai Kung
27. Ap Chau and Kat O islands
28. Tap Mun Chau (Grass Island): rocks and reefs
29. Mai Po Nature Reserve
30. Wun Fau Taoist Temple
31. Tai Fu Tai
32. Po Seng honey farm
33. Kat Hing Wai walled villages
34. Sheung Yiu Folk Museum
35. Lion's Club Nature Education Centre
36. Tin Hau Temple
37. Clear Water Bay beaches

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NEXT ISSUE

If you set off right now, you may be just in time to chase autumn in the three ***Northeast China*** *provinces, namely* ***Liaoning, Jilin*** *and* ***Heilongjiang****, where our correspondent will lead you along a 1,000-kilometre route to admire the splendid natural scenes. In the Northwest, we take you to Maigaiti in southern Xinjiang to see the* ***"Hot Whirlwind"*** *dance created by the Daolang people. In a mountainous village named* ***Liukeng*** *in* ***Jiangxi Province****, is found unique ancient architecture and a rich collection of cultural relics. People who have visited Beijing may have not noticed the existence of the* ***Hard Rock Cafe****, which, with a floor space of 1,500 square metres, is complete with stage, dance floor and cosy bars.*



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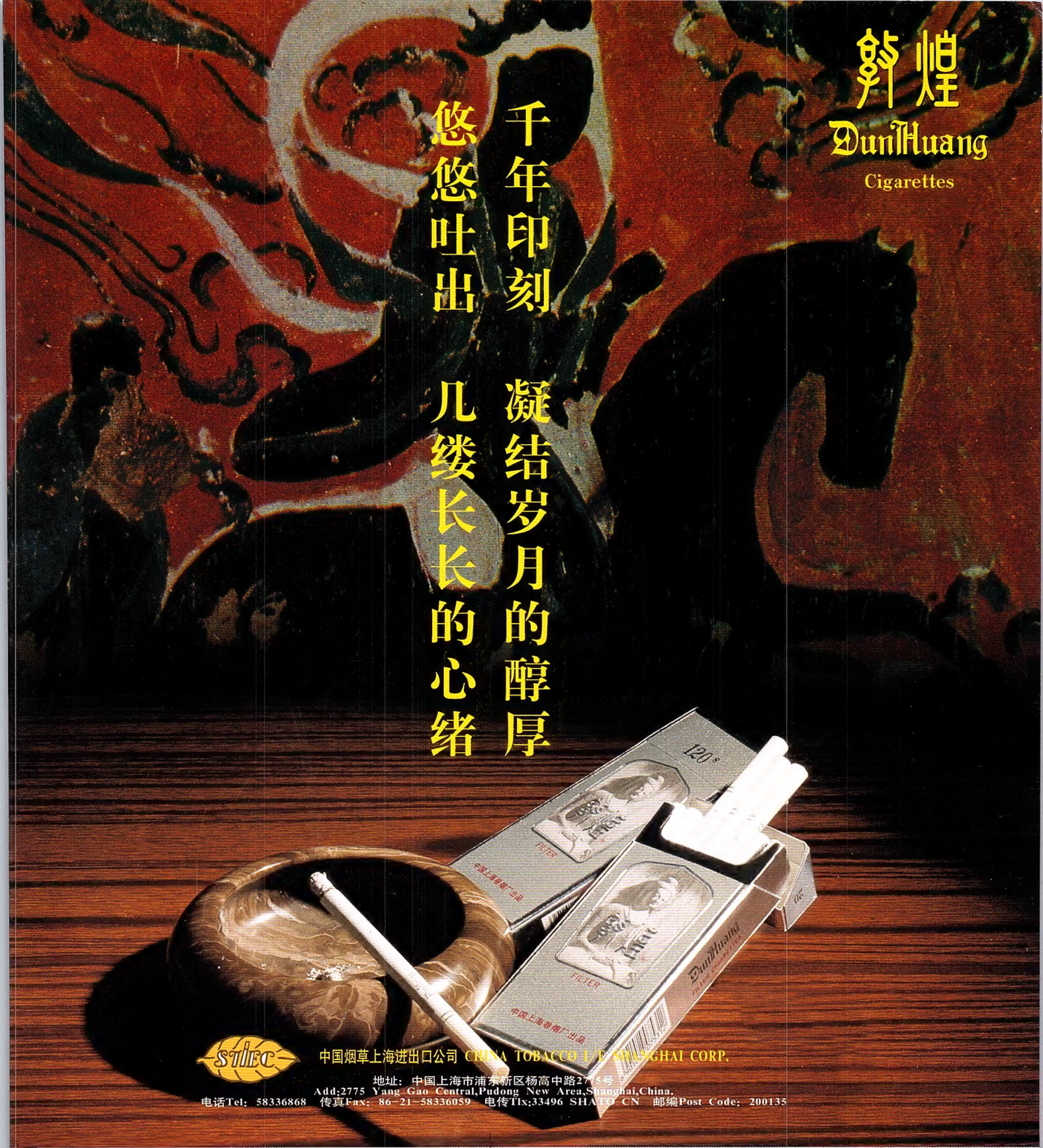
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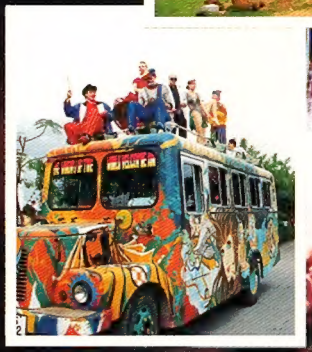
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